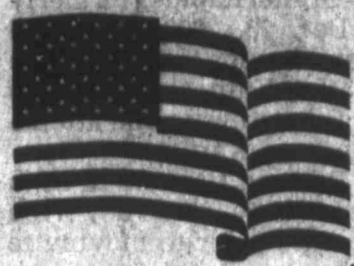


# Merry Christmas



**BIG  
SPRING**

# HERALD

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**WEDNESDAY**

December 24, 2003

**WEATHER**

Tonight:



**TONIGHT TOMORROW**  
39°-41° 63°-66°

**BRIEFLY**

**Santa's coming!**

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, worldwide toy disburser Santa Claus said Big Spring children should definitely plan to be in bed early Christmas Eve.

"I'm starting at the International Dateline, of course," said the red-clad sleigh driver. "I'll do each time zone in about an hour, and then head west."

Claus said he'll start work in the Central time zone, which includes Big Spring, at about 10 p.m. and finish up around 11 p.m. before heading on to the Mountain Time zone.

An accident earlier this week at Claus' North Pole workshop will have the elves working late into the evening Christmas Eve, which means Santa may have to make some special trips home to pick up toys as they become ready.

"If you haven't gotten your stocking filled by 11, don't worry," said Claus. "That doesn't necessarily mean you're on the 'naughty' list. Just be sure to be asleep before I get there."

**OFFICE CLOSED**

The Herald office will be closed on Thursday as we observe the Christmas holiday. We will reopen for business on Friday. We at the Herald wish you and yours a very merry Christmas.

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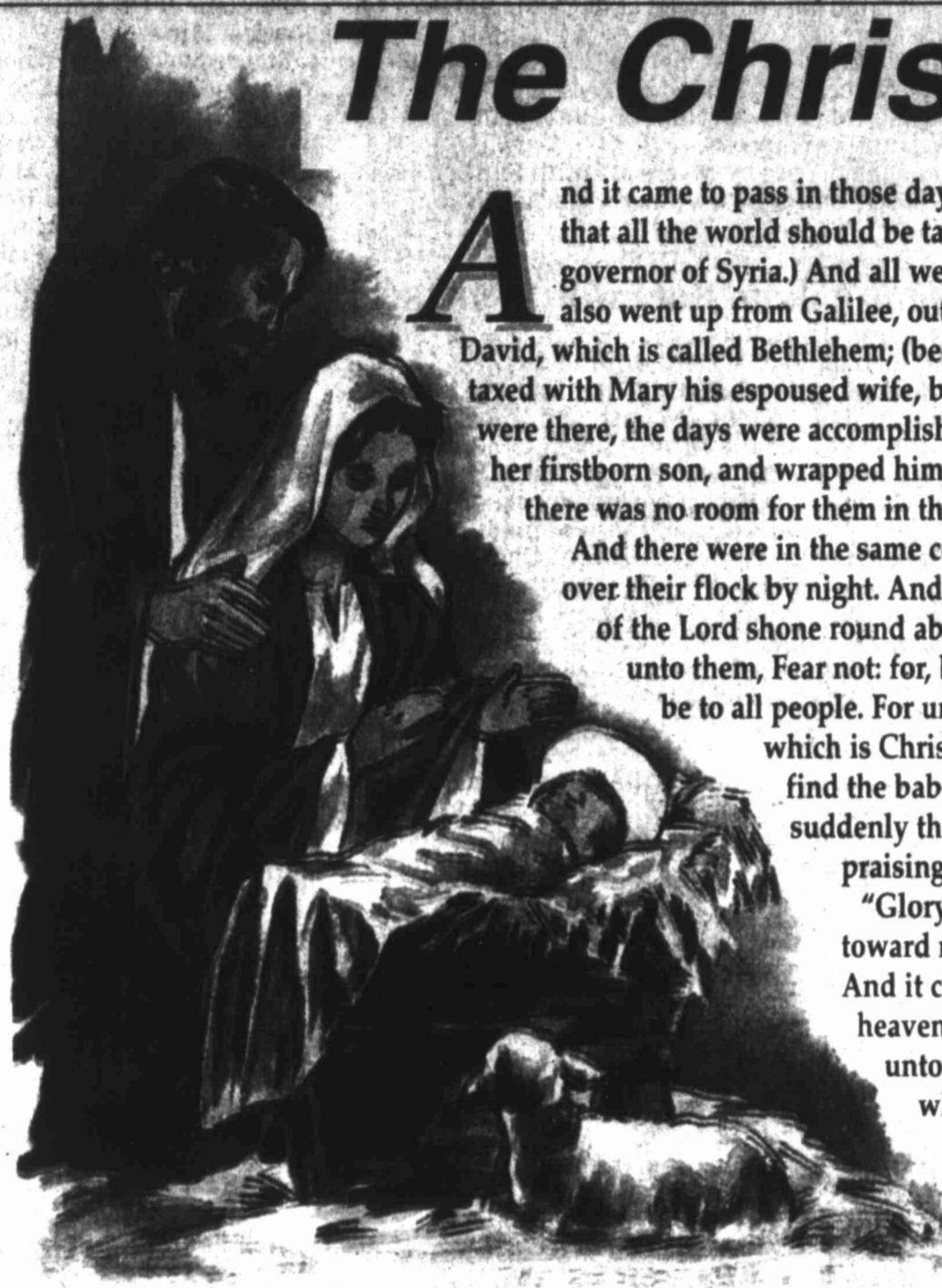
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**Vol. 100, No. 33**

Find us online at: [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

## The Christmas story



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary,

and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which

were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. *Luke 2: 1-20*

## After the sleigh ride, Santa will hit the surf

Bauer students say St. Nick will try to find a warm, relaxing hideaway

Santa Claus makes his yearly flight tonight to spread joy and Christmas presents throughout the world.

He had a long, hard journey preparing for the Christmas season and deserves a little reprieve, which begs the question... What does Santa do on vacation?

The Big Spring Herald asked Linda Long's Bauer Magnet Elementary School's fourth-grade class to put their imagination to the test and answer this query for us.

I know where Santa goes on vacation. He goes to Hawaii with his elves, and wife Mrs. Claus. They go on a family trip on an airplane that is private because the elves take up all of the plane. So when they are at Hawaii they order 33 rooms because the elves always get carried away packing their things in their suitcases. They say that they need all of their things in their suitcases because if they don't, they won't look pretty. They even have a list for that.

Mal Gomez

I do believe that Santa goes to Hawaii for vacation. He goes by



Bauer Magnet Elementary School fourth-graders Sara Overby, left, Kadisha Robinson and Bryce Green put their imagination to the test by writing about what the Big Guy in Red does for vacation after his Christmas Eve trip. The students are members of Linda Long's fourth-grade class, which participated in the project.

sleigh during the summer to get away from all the sometimes pesty little elves. As he sips his tea by the beach, all the people come hinting what they want for Christmas. While taking note of all the things he has to tell the elves to make, the jolly old man falls asleep and dreams happy dreams.

Lacy McMurtrey

I think Santa goes on vacation at the beach to surf. Then he goes to the North Pole for a day and flies on a plane back to the beach.

Albert Hernandez

Santa goes on vacation to Hawaii. After Christmas Day he went by bus. He asked for a ticket, and the girl that gave him his ticket said, "Are you Saint Nick?" "Why would you think that?" asked Santa. "Because you have a long beard and fat," she said. It took two days and four hours but finally he was there. He got out a towel, an umbrella, some lemonade and a hat. There he sat drinking, then he got a surfboard and went out to catch some waves.

Layelle Montanex

I say Santa goes to Hawaii to go

lose some weight at the Lose-Some-Weight Spa and Gym. Everything you need to lose weight is there. You could probably find Mrs. Claus is on the beach at Zach's Tanning Spa and Salon on Winter Street across from Winter-Mart. Their car is in the beach garage by the Snack and Surf Shop. Don't touch it. It has an alarm. That is where Santa goes on vacation.

Austin Pierce

When Santa gets done with pre-

See VACATION, Page 6A

## Obituaries

## Dean Henry Johnson



On Sunday morning, Dec. 21, at 7:05, our loving husband, brother, father, and "Deano" went to be with his heavenly Father. He passed away at the Scenic Mountain Hospital in Big Spring after a brief illness. Dean Henry Johnson was born in Rupert, Idaho, on July 12, 1929, Louis and Clarinda Allen Johnson. He was one of eight siblings.

He went to school in Rupert and later joined the Air Force. Stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, he met TrinaBeth Reed of Sterling City. They married Oct. 27, 1951, and recently celebrated 52 years together. From San Angelo, they moved to Abilene. Mr. Johnson held jobs with the local television and radio stations. He served on numerous community committees. He enjoyed the many friendships and acquaintances made from doing this type of work. In 1975, he started a new adventure in life traveling to different countries all over the world to work in the oil field. He and TrinaBeth lived in some of the most interesting places, Iran, Kuwait, Spain, Australia, Guatemala, Columbia and Peru. They had many wonderful stories to tell about their world travels. He loved his country and was very active in politics. The 4th of July was his favorite holiday and always had a bang of a celebration.

He and TrinaBeth were blessed with four children, Hank (Dean Henry) Johnson Jr. of Big Spring, Nikki Michulka of Sterling City, Jacque Verastegui of Sterling City and Lilli Hensley of San Angelo. As each one married they added another blessing to the ever-growing family, Becky Johnson of Odessa, Eddie Michulka of Sterling City, Mario Verastegui, (preceding him in death), Alton Hillger of Garden City, and Gary Hensley of San Angelo.

More blessings came with each of their 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. William Alden Johnson, preceding Dean in death, Bruce Puckett of Odessa, Misty Adwell of San Angelo, Tyson Verastegui of Sterling City, Deana Johnson of Big Spring, Charolett Puckett of Odessa, Skipper Jed Michulka of San Angelo, Joseph Verastegui of Sterling City, Madelyn Verastegui of Sterling City, and David Dean Hensley of San Angelo; three great grandchildren, Madison Verastegui of Big Spring, Christopher Adwell and Lauren Noel Verastegui of San Angelo. Mr. Johnson often would marvel at the legacy he was able to witness occurring in his family. He enjoyed those days when his children or grandkids would come in and do devotionals with him, or take a ride on the mule.

He was a storyteller and writer. He had numerous published works, especially in editorial pages, and dreamed of one day writing a book of his adventures. In the last few years, he lived in Sterling City. He enjoyed being in the country and living in a small community.

Dean leaves behind a host of loved ones and wonderful friends. Surviving Deano are his wife, children and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also, surviving are his brother, Wendell Johnson, of Rupert, Idaho; sister and her husband, Richard and Ruby Fowler of Auburn, Wash.; brother in law and wife, Neal J. and Ginny Reed and several loved nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. John Wintringham officiating, and lovely music by Jim Wynne, in Sterling City. Graveside will follow in the City Cemetery.

Pallbearers include the grandsons, Bruce Puckett, Tyson Verastegui, Skipper Michulka, Joseph Verastegui, David Dean Hensley, Bobby McClure and Micheal Jarmillo, special grand friends, great-grandson Christopher Adwell. Honoree pallbearers will be Winn McClure, Bill Stroman, Bill Barbee, Larry Glass, Cliff Caldwell, Mackey McEntire, Pat Foster, Don Howard, Delmer Radde, Bill Watts of Sterling City, Lynn Glass of Big Spring, Lee Pat Thomas of Midland, C.J. Douglas of Austin, and Neal J. Reed of College Station.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Clark McDandel of Big Spring, Sonny Bennett of Sterling City, Dr. Gene Newson and Dr. Paul Walters of Lubbock, the staff at the Dialysis Center in Big Spring, and the staff at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring.

Love the Lord God with all your Heart,  
It will be just a short time, we are apart.  
Like the wink of an eye,  
"Be there", he'd say.  
Start the day with a prayer,  
Then one more at the end of each day.  
Thank you Deano for a wonderful life!

*Paid obituary*

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following recent activity:

- **ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard. Deputy responded, incident report to follow.
- **RECKLESS DRIVER** was reported on Highway 350. Deputy responded, unable to locate.



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Big Spring, Texas  
HENRY BACKES

## Willie "B.J." Bowers



Willie "B.J." Bowers, 36, of Big Spring died Tuesday morning, Dec. 23, 2003, at his residence. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Temple Church, officiating.

He was born Nov. 11, 1967, in Arlington. He grew up in Fort Stockton and graduated from Fort Stockton High School in 1987. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy. He graduated from Texas State Technological Institute in Sweetwater. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1991 and was employed at KFC. Mr. Bowers was a Baptist.

He is survived by his mother Alexia Glenn of Big Spring; one brother, Leland Bowers of St. Louis, Mo.; one sister, Marsha McNew of Big Spring and two nieces and five nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Margaret Jane Robinson Franks

Margaret Jane Robinson Franks, 89, of Corpus Christi died on Dec. 11, 2003, in Houston.

Mrs. Franks was born Oct. 16, 1914, in Swenson County to Lou Addle (Nolan) and Albert Sidney Robinson. She was the fifth of seven children of this early pioneer family who helped settle rural West Texas. She married Robert Laffitte Franks in 1931. The family lived Big Spring and the surrounding area for many years before moving to Corpus Christi in 1953. She was a member of VFW Auxiliary 4055. Mrs. Robinson was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, R.L.; oldest son, Robert L. Jr.; youngest son Henry Floyd and second son, Donald Earl; also brothers Rudolph Robinson and Donald Robinson and sister, Hyla Hopson.

Her surviving family members are sisters Geneva Holden of Rule and Sidney B. Best of Midland. Her surviving children are Shirley F. McClintock and her husband, George of Platte City, Mo., Lou Addie Holley of Houston and Robert L. Franks and his wife, Frances of Phenix City, Ala; and 17 grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at Seaside Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be held at Seaside Memorial Park.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Tuesday until 8 a.m. today:

• **ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ HINOJOS**, 42, of 100 N.W. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on a city warrant for assault/family violence.

• **MICHELLE BUSTAMANTE**, 25, of 416 Westover Road, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant for driving while intoxicated.

• **KENNETH JOHN GUZMAN**, 18, of 905 Sgt. Paradez, was arrested Tuesday on charges of evading arrest with a vehicle and failure to identify.

• **JAVIEL SOLIZ**, 21, of 3307 Auburn, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.

• **DAVID SUMMERS**, 54, of 1000 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on a capias warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia and five local warrants for city code violations.

• **JAROE PARNELL**, 20, of 1307 E. 14th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of assault/family violence and driving while license suspended.

• **STEVEN TIPTON**, 43, of 507 Highland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of E. 14th Street.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 400 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

- in the 200 block of Marcy.

- in the 2200 block of Runnels.

- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

• **THEFT OF SERVICES** was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2100 block of S. Monticello.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn.

• **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE** was reported in the 900 block of Third Street.

• **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY** was reported in the 900 block of Third Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1800 block of Donley.

## Vera Ellen Carlisle

Vera Ellen Carlisle, 79, of Grand Rapids, formerly Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, at Grand Village Nursing Home in Grand Rapids. She was born Sept. 11, 1924, to Willard and Mary Katherine (Garrett) Havens of Quapaw, Okla., and she grew up and attended school in nearby Baxter Springs, Kan.

Mrs. Carlisle met Herman Richard Carlisle in high school and they were married Feb. 7, 1946. They lived in Baxter Springs for a few years prior to moving to Orange.

They then moved to Lansing, Ill., where they lived for many years. In 1973 they moved to Big Spring and then to Crete, Ill. in 1975. They returned to Big Spring where she lived until 1996 when she moved to Grand Rapids, Minn.

She resided at the Woodland Residence for Memory Care and later moved to Grand Village. She received outstanding love and care from the staff at both Woodland and Grand Village in her last years. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Carlisle was preceded in death by her husband Herman in 1983. She was a wonderful, loving, caring wife, mother and homemaker. She enjoyed spending time with her family, walking and, in later years, developed her artistic talents.

She is survived by four sons, Jack and wife Raena Carlisle of Grand Rapids, James "Bim" and Cyndi Carlisle of Livonia, Mich., Greg and Jennie Carlisle of Branchville, S.C. and David and Cindy Carlisle of Big Spring; a brother, Bobby Gené and wife Wanda Havens of Joplin, Mo.; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, with funeral services on Tuesday, Dec. 30 at Hirsh's Spindler-Koelling Funeral Chapel in Crete, Ill. Interment will be held at the Skyline Memorial Park Cemetery in Monee, Ill. Memorial gifts to the Grand Village Memorial Tree are preferred in lieu of flowers.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids with the Rev. Marva Jean Hutchens officiating. Funeral arrangements are by the Rowe Funeral Home in Grand Rapids.

*Paid obituary*

## J.B. Keaton

J. B. Keaton, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, at his home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin

Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin, 85, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, in a local nursing home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-20-27-32-33.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

...

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-21-32. Bonus Ball: 20.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Estimated jackpot for Friday night drawing: \$250,000.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-0-8

...

Results of the Mega Ball drawing Tuesday night:

2-13-21-22-49 Mega Ball = 52

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Christmas day...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

South winds 10 to 20 mph..Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 70. South winds 10 to 15 mph..Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s..Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s..Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s..Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

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# Big Spring family thankful for help

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

For two Big Spring families, the Christmas spirit is very much alive and bringing smiles to a place that might not otherwise be touched by holiday cheer.

Bernarda Valencia, like so many other grandmothers in this day and time, is raising her grandchildren on a fixed income that barely seems fit for one person. With the help of her 14-year-old granddaughter Adriana Valencia, the pair are doing their best to provide for Adriana's four younger sisters, but at Christmas time the horizon can seem awfully bleak when funds fall short.

Bernarda and Adriana stood in line with more than 100 other families Tuesday morning to pick up gifts from the Salvation Army Angel

Bernarda said the Christmas help is a boost for everyone in her family, but more importantly it's teaching the children lessons they will remember long after they leave childhood behind.

"It's good for us because we have so many kids," said Bernarda. "The day is really for them. It really represents everything for them. I'm just an old lady, but I really enjoy seeing the children so happy when they see the presents and the Christmas tree."

"We want to teach them by showing them. We want them to see while they're growing up that it's all about the children. We want them to remember that the kids come first on Christmas Day."

Young Adriana, who has had shared a great deal of responsibility for her younger sisters over the

years, brings a rather unique twist to the situation. As a young teenager, she is caught between her own youthful visions of Christmas and the feelings of a "parent" that simply cannot provide many of the traditional holiday items for her sisters.

She said the Angel Tree program should be looked on by area donors as an important part of the holiday season and what it truly stands for.

"Programs like these are very important," said Adriana. "People don't have money to buy things for their kids at Christmas. I have younger sisters and I have to be like a mother to them, so I understand how it feels to not be able to buy them anything."

"I'm still just really shocked about this whole thing. I'm really happy that we have this help, and I know my family is very happy about it as well. It's just really hard to put into words."

Picking up the toys was a very emotional time for Bernarda, who said she hopes her story will help put a face on the hundreds of people the Salvation Army have helped this holiday season and serve as a reminder of their importance.

"The program is very important," said Bernarda through a veil of tears. "There are a lot of people that are very poor. They don't have enough money to buy Christmas gifts for their kids. We don't have enough. We only get \$500 a month to live on, and we use that to pay our bills."

"It makes me very happy to know the people at the Salvation Army are doing this. It makes me happy to know so many children are going to have gifts on Christmas. When I was a kid we didn't have anything like this. My daddy died when I was 4, so I know what it feels like when you don't have anybody."

*"When I was a kid we didn't have anything like this. My daddy died when I was 4, so I know what it feels like when you don't have anybody."*

Adriana Valencia



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Adriana Valencia loads Christmas gifts for her and her family Tuesday morning, as the Big Spring Salvation Army wound up its annual Angel Tree program. The Valentias were among more than 100 local families that benefited from the program, which helps provide Christmas gifts to children and senior citizens.

## Blood drive slated Monday

With the holidays in full swing, United Blood Services more than ever is in need of people willing to give the gift of life.

A blood drive has been set for 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday at Woodforest National Bank in Wal-Mart, 201 W. Marcy.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, in good health and have not donated blood within the last eight weeks. All donors must present some type of identification such as a driver's license, school or work I.D., Social Security card or a passport.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Maurice M. "Jack" Parkin, 85, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Willie "B.J." Bowers, 36, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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# BEALLS

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<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ENTIRE STOCK MEN'S KNIT &amp; WOVEN SHIRTS Long-sleeved styles. Orig. 24.00-38.00, SALE 11.99-18.99. *Excludes designer collections.</p>	<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ENTIRE STOCK MISSES FALL &amp; HOLIDAY SWEATERS From Designers Originals, Kikit, Rebecca Malone, Hannah and more. Orig. 29.00-48.00, SALE 13.99-23.99. *Excludes designer collections.</p>	<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> REBECCA MALONE KNIT TOPS FOR MISSES Long-sleeved Fall styles, including crewnecks, Henleys and mocknecks. Reg. 18.00, SALE 8.99.</p>	
<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> MEN'S &amp; YOUNG MEN'S CASUAL PANTS Men's pleated pants by Sun River; Young men's styles by Plugg; OTB &amp; Wear First. Reg. 32.00, SALE 15.99.</p>		<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> JUNIORS FASHION TOPS &amp; BOTTOMS Sweaters, knit tops, denim jeans and pants. Orig. 18.00-38.00, SALE 8.99-18.99.</p>	
<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ENTIRE STOCK GIRLS &amp; BOYS SWEATERS By Heartworks, Graphite and more. Orig. 20.00-28.00, SALE 10.00-14.00.</p>		<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> JUNIORS COLLECTIONS BY FAMOUS DESIGNERS Sweaters, tees, jeans and pants. Orig. 24.00-69.00, SALE 11.99-33.99.</p>	
<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ALL CHILDREN'S PLAYWEAR SETS With EXTRA 33% OFF reduced styles. Orig. 16.00-38.00, SALE 8.03-18.75.</p>		<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ALL FALL &amp; WINTER SLEEPWEAR &amp; ROBES Flannel and satin pajamas, gown, and more. Orig. 18.00-68.00, SALE 8.99-33.99.</p>	
<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ALL MEN'S, LADIES &amp; JUNIORS OUTERWEAR With EXTRA 33% OFF reduced styles. Orig. 40.00-160.00, SALE 19.80-79.20.</p>		<p><b>SAVE 70%</b> ENTIRE STOCK HOLIDAY HOME DÉCOR Ornaments, nativities, tree toppers and more. Orig. 8.00-50.00, SALE 1.99-14.99.</p>	<p><b>SAVE 50%</b> ENTIRE STOCK GOLD &amp; SILVER JEWELRY Choose from an assortment of earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, pendants and charms.</p>

### LEVI'S JEANS STOCK UP SALE FOR THE FAMILY!

<p><b>SALE 29.99</b> LEVI'S JEANS FOR MEN &amp; YOUNG MEN 505, 550™ and 569™ jeans. Waists 29-40; cotton. Reg. 35.00-38.00.</p>	<p><b>12.99-17.99</b> LEVI'S JEANS FOR CHILDREN Infants, girls 2T-16 and boys 2T-20 jeans. Reg. 22.00-25.00.</p>	<p><b>SALE 29.99</b> LEVI'S JEANS FOR JUNIORS 518™ medium rise or crosshatch stretch superlow, or 519™ low flare. Reg. 40.00.</p>	<p><b>SALE 26.99</b> LEVI'S JEANS FOR MISSES 512™ and 550™ styles. Sizes 8-16; cotton. Reg. 35.00.</p>
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Save prices effective December 26-28. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Fine Jewelry at most stores. Selections vary by store.

### BEALL HOURS:

MON.-SAT. 8 AM - 9 PM SUNDAY 12 PM - 6 PM  
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## EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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## OUR VIEWS

Yes, Virginia,  
there is a  
Santa Claus

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor:  
I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Clause.

Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'  
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanlon,  
115 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you every see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

\*\*\*

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcellus Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" - the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcellus Church's response is an annual tradition at the Herald. We hope you enjoy it.

## 'Twas about time for Christmas

It was about time for Christmas, and all through the house  
A creature was stirring, but it wasn't a mouse;

I knew right away it was my wife's little pup,  
She thought we were sleeping, and so she was up  
The dog was a gift, it was coercion, really.

A woman can pout, 'til a man gets down, right silly.  
And now the wife was snoozing; she was really sacked out.  
She wouldn't have awoke from less than a shout.

Yes, her in her nightgown, I in my BVDs,  
We had finally settled down to catch some Zs;  
When off in the kitchen there arose such a clatter,  
I rolled from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away down the hall, my head in a muddle,  
I reached the kitchen...and stepped in a puddle.  
The glow from a nightlight illuminated the room,  
So how come I stumbled over the broom?

I fell in a sprawl, my legs were not stable.  
On the way down, my nose hit the table.  
My head was a spinnin' and when I came to rest

Four miniature dog feet stood on my chest.  
With a lick and a bark, she bounded away,  
Into the living room, she ran to play.  
More rapid than mooses, that rat terrier ran,  
Me on the follow, rolled newspaper in hand.

"Stop, Skeeter! Stop, Dog! Stop, Pup!  
Halt, Pooch! Halt, Girl! Oh, come're, you mutt!  
"Get off the new couch! Now let go of that curtain!  
Ohhh...If I ever catch you, you're gonna' be hurtin'"

As winds of a Texas tornado do fly,  
She spun round the room, down low and up high.  
Then up on the countertop, that puppy went  
She stopped for a second. I thought she was spent.

I make a quick lunge, she ducked me and then  
Yawned when I dove through the flour bin.  
As I drew out my head and was turning around,  
She made for the presents, in a single bound.

I was covered with flour, from my head to my toes,  
My robe in tatters, and blood on my nose.  
A bag full of toys, she grabbed with glee;  
I nabbed her, I thought, but instead got the tree.

The ornaments, they broke, as they began to fall;

The lights, how they fizzled, and that is not all.  
When I reached for the plug, to turn the bulbs out,  
What flowed through my body, but electricity, so stout!  
As smoke encircled my head like a wreath,  
That dog held my big toe, tight in her teeth.

"Skeeter," I moaned, "I give up. Oh, Skeeter, I give in."  
So she bit my swollen nose, and nipped at my chin.  
She spoke not a word, but went back to work,  
Down came the stockings; it took just a jerk.

Then up from the hall, came the sound of feet,  
Momma, it seemed was awake from her sleep.  
"Now you'll get it pup," I announced with glee.  
Then Skeeter walked over and put her little head on my knee.

She looked up at my wife - so innocent - and at me, so, so sad.  
And it didn't take long, to know I'd been had.  
Then came the wife's voice, so strong and so clear,  
"Bill, you leave that puppy alone! You hear!"

And I exclaimed to myself, as they walked out with a strut,  
"Don't leave any gifts, Santa; just PICK UP THE MUTT!"

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## Some 'must buy' books for Christmas

My fellow procrastinators, never let it be said that we do not think about Christmas shopping. Actually doing anything about it is such a radical step we can safely put it off for a few more days. But I feel contemplation counts almost as much as the actual gift. Hence, the annual Christmas roundup of good books. We have plenty of time to decide which one goes to whom — that's the hard part — then a simple One Stop at the local bookstore, and we're all done.

My favorite book this year is "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer" by Tracy Kidder. It's about two things simultaneously. The first is the life of an extraordinary man, Paul Farmer, who has simply thrown himself — all his time, talent and every ounce of his energy — into saving lives, particularly of those most desperately in need of help. The man pretty much set out to save the world and damned if he isn't making progress. It's an amazing story: He just went to Haiti and started working, and now he's changing medical thinking all over the world.

Sounds daunting, doesn't it? The book jacket describes Farmer as "brilliant, charismatic, charming." Actually, he sounds like someone you'd really like to know. You'd have to run to keep up with him, but apparently he's a nice and even funny guy, on top of being a MacArthur Foundation-certified genius.

That gets us to the second thing this book is about: us. So why aren't we doing what Paul Farmer

is? Or even one tenth as much as Paul Farmer is? The trouble with reading about someone who is doing with his life what all of us know we should be doing, too, is that it really puts you on the spot. Kidder, a meticulous reporter, is brilliant at taking us through all the reactions to this guy — admiration, envy, self-justification, rationalization, churlishness. What is with this guy Farmer, does he have a martyr complex or something? Finally, I think, the only possible way to take Farmer is for what he is — an inspiration. Think about all the sleazy, selfish people in this country who get tons of media attention, from Michael Jackson to Tom DeLay. Here's a by-God hero. What a swell book.

Here are some more: — "Living to Tell the Tale," a memoir by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Naturally a must for Marquez fans, but also worth reading just for the portraits of his family.

— "Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble and Coming of Age in the Bronx" by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc. (The nice thing about this new mania for long subtitles is that the reviewer no longer has to explain what the book is about.) As this country becomes more and more segregated by class, so that we're sort of a giant version of the reality show "The Simple Life," here's one way to get to know people who are not middle class.

— For anyone with family in Iraq, Anthony Swofford's "Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles" is the real deal.

— For murder mystery fans, life is simple. A new Reginald Hill, a new P.D. James, a new James Lee Burke, a new Lindsey Davis and a new Bill Fitzhugh. Doesn't get better than that.

— For the politically alert, a ver-

itable cornucopia. Jim Hightower's "Thieves in High Places: They've Stolen Our Country and It's Time to Take It Back" is a rollicking good read. Since the country is demonstrably being run by kleptocrats, someone needs to say so, and Hightower is awfully good at it. But I think even more important is that the book is optimistic and for good reason — because the American people are pretty damn terrific, and they're fighting back. (Hightower is an old friend, but I'd plug him even if he weren't.)

Paul Krugman, economist and New York Times columnist, has a more-than-collection out called "The Great Unraveling." Packed with information and unsparingly clear-eyed.

— Eden Lipson, our contributing authority on children's books, recommends the following. For teenagers in the upper grades, "After," by Francine Prose, a cautionary tale about what happens after a Columbine-like incident and what fear does to freedom. For little ones, "Two Eggs, Please" by Sarah Weeks, illustrated by Betsy Lewin, set in a diner. Truly hilarious various customers give the same order with different results.

For everyone six and up, "Mosque" by David Macaulay, is about the reconstruction of a fictional mosque opens Islamic architecture and history in an entertaining way. Also fun for all, "A Day in the Life of Murphy," a memoir by a terrier and by Alice Provensen. The first sentence is, "My name is Murphy Stop That."

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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BILL  
MCCLELLAN



MOLLY  
IVINS

## Refle

"Christmas is  
With collar tu  
my hat screw  
I set out acro  
neath winter

We had been  
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I had to find  
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or Jack Frost  
lives before the mo

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The beckoned  
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LONGMONT,  
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3101 N

# Reflecting on Christmastime in the Scrub Oaks

## "Christmas in the Scrub Oaks"

With collar turned up against the cold  
my hat screwed down real tight,  
I set out across the pasture  
'neath winter's bright moon light.

We had been weeks upon the trail  
I didn't know the day,  
one day is like another  
when you ride for cowboy's pay.

I had to find a missing pair  
a mother and her son  
or Jack Frost's grip would claim their  
lives  
before the morning sun!

I spied them in the scrub oaks  
their backs turned towards the trees,  
her eyes looked soft and loving,  
her calf nursed between her knees.

And strangely came a gentle breeze  
I saw angels circling to and fro.  
The beckoned me to follow them,  
eastward we did go!

Lacy was my buckskin mare  
her gait was smooth and slow,  
my jingle bobs rang out a tune  
that carried across the snow.

I gazed up to the heavens  
there shone a brilliant star.  
We followed it through most the night,  
to a little town so far.

I saw a big commotion  
out on the edge of town.  
We found a little stable with  
some wranglers gathered round.

I lit down from my Lacy  
and pushed into the crowd.  
In the manger wrapped in flour sacks  
I was a baby bedded down.

His parents seemed quite humble;  
"Sharecroppers" I would bet.  
The had traveled far to come to town  
and pay the taxman's debt.



Though they were tired and weary  
the couldn't find a bed.  
When they could go no further,  
they came upon this shed.

In that barn sometime that night  
by candlelight so mid,  
a babe was born to man and wife  
the son of GOD in Bethlehem!

Beside them was a burro  
in the corner a cow to two.  
Just then is when it hit me,  
it was the same pair that I knew.

Three ranchers came up to babe  
their names I wasn't told.  
The must have come from wealthy  
spreads  
the gifts were laced with gold!

Then softly I heard a moving song,  
those angels began to sing.  
Their voices grew and filled the air  
singing GLORY TO THE KING!!!

They said his name was Jesus.  
Our souls was he to save!  
To die for us upon a cross

then rise up from the grave!

I went outside to clear my head  
I knelt down by my mount.  
The angels circled over me  
Far too many for me to count!

I wondered what that I might have;  
that I could freely give  
to a baby sent to pay for me  
so that eternal I could live!

I took the wild rag from my neck,  
of silk it had been spun,  
a special gift from my dear Jan  
before this drive begun.

I am sure it was quite costly

but then also was my sin  
I wrapped it round my savior  
to soothe his precious skin.

Babe Jesus looked into my eyes,  
Mary smiled so sweet.  
Joseph took me by my hand  
and helped me to my feet.

So Lacy and I began to ride,  
my hat held in my hands.  
I shared this tale with all we met  
across the desert sands.

Later I got down on my knees,  
Lacy nuzzled at my side.  
I bowed by head in humble prayer  
and thanked GOD for that ride!

Then just as when it started  
I felt a gentle breeze.  
I woke up to find me kneeling  
in that grove of scrub oak trees.

I rounded up the cattle  
and as we began to leave  
'neath that star so bright, I realized  
this night was Christmas Eve!

Carl Condray-December 2003

Editor's Note: Carl Condray is the firemarshal for the Big Spring Fire Department and is a cowboy poet.

The photo is 'Scrub Oak' by Myron Wood. (1976)



CONDRA Y

## Toilet seats don't make the best Christmas gifts, spouses discover

LONGMONT, Colo. (AP) — Gary and Karri Clark haven't forgotten their second Christmas together. He knew she wanted bathroom accessories, so he wrapped up a couple of gifts and waited.

The toilet seat and towel rack didn't go over too well.

"Here I thought I was doing good," he recalled with a laugh. "It was something she can always use, day after day. It's the gift that keeps on giving."

The Clarks were among those who responded to requests by the Daily Times-Call newspaper to share their stories about bungled gifts and best intentions — the waffle makers, blenders and vacuum cleaners given with love and practicality in mind that will never be forgotten or forgiven.

Karri Clark admits she wanted a new toilet seat a decade ago because there was a crack in the old

*"It was something she can always use, day after day. It's the gift that keeps on giving."*

one. She just didn't think she'd get one gift wrapped.

"I could not believe it," she said. "What man gives you a toilet seat for Christmas?"

Stan Stanley said he learned his lesson about practical gifts in the early 1980s after presenting his wife with a garage door opener one Christmas. There was no entrance from the garage into the house, a source of irritation for Connie Stanley.

"I was so excited about opening it. I had no idea what it was," she said. After 57 years of marriage, she said, she has to

forgive Stan when he makes a mistake like that.

Tom Tinkle remembers giving his wife a birthday blender and how she did a wonderful job of oohing and aahing before setting the box aside. When she finally took the blender out of the box, she discovered a sapphire bracelet slipped inside.

"It was a surprise for her and possibly made her rethink her opinions of her doofus husband giving her a bonehead blender for a gift," Tinkle said.

Gary Clark admits his bathroom gifts were out of desperation: It was Christmas Eve, he was at Kmart and he couldn't think of what to buy his wife.

"She wanted it, but not for Christmas," he said. Since then, he's done better: His wife received a Ford Explorer for her birthday this year.



Blake & Brittney Enriquez  
Best Wishes To Our Two Most "Precious Gifts" For A Merry Christmas  
Love, Daddy & Mama



Wishing Jesus a Happy Birthday on my first Christmas.  
Love, D'Kota



Kaleb Rex Wilson  
May God Bless and Keep You Safe All Your Life.  
9/29/03  
Love You So Much Grandma & Papa Word

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VACATION

Continued from Page 1A

santa, he takes the reindeer back. Once he has done that, he buys a car and drives it to the airport. He buys a ticket to Hawaii. On the way he eats cookies and milk. When he gets there he borrows a surfboard and surfs the waves. He says, "Cowabunga! That was a gnarly wave dude!" He stays there for two weeks. His meals are cookies and milk.

Brittany Hill

I think Santa goes to the South Pole on the sleigh on the day after Christmas so he can have a little time off. All of his relatives can be there. They would probably have a lot of feasts, dances, conversations, gifts and greetings. They would have a good time. That is where I think he goes.

Adrian Garcia

If Santa goes on vacations, he would go to the North Pole Ocean in the summer. He would be surfing in the USA on the waves. And if you are wondering about his reindeer, they are his surfboard. Mrs. Claus is in the tanning spa with all the other girl elves. All of the boy elves are surfing in a little pond near Santa. That is where Santa would go on vacation (well, in my world).

Ariel Marlow

I think Santa goes to the South Pole to visit his mother who is Chrissie Claus and his father who is Jonny Claus. Santa took the easy way just so he can see his mother and father. He takes his sleigh and reindeer. His parents live in a Christmas tree house. Santa visits his parents and other places every month except December. Santa hovers over thousands and thousands of cities. Every December he has to come home to help his elves make toys for the boys and girls.

Zachary Hernandez

I think Santa will go to Las Vegas for vacation. He will have the time of his life because he will win lots of cash. He will not go back without money. He will be the richest person in the North Pole. Before he goes back to the North Pole, he will go to the gym and work out. When he's at the North Pole, everybody will be surprised because he will have a lot of money and look like a body builder.

Kirsten Esparza

I think Santa is going to Los Angeles because he will enjoy the heat there. For his vacation he probably will want to go swimming and surfing. He will probably go by plane because he is used to flying and it is far. During the summer, he will probably take Mrs. Claus and some of his helpers because they did a lot of hard work.

Manuel Sosa

I think Santa might go to Hawaii for his vacation. Santa gets to Hawaii by his sleigh. When Santa is at Hawaii, he surfs. So I bet he will have fun. I think I would like that. When he is inside, he watches TV, drinks hot cocoa and relaxes. He would have fun doing that.

Sara Overby

I think Santa goes snowboarding at the North Pole. He has to go to his workshop and make a snowboard for himself. Then Santa puts on his furry jacket and goes outside

to start his sleigh so that he can snowboard in the mountains. When he is there, he jumps off his sleigh and snowboards down the mountain.

Mercedes Moncada

I think Santa goes to Hollywood after Christmas. He gets there by airplane. He doesn't tell his real name. He says that he is Sam Clawson. He does it because starting from January he makes toys. He takes his little elves of course and his wife. Santa is sad because he has no little children. But then he says, "Hey, what am I complaining about, I have little elves." Santa has a really good time. That is what I think he does on vacation.

Tonia Arista

On summer days Santa isn't in his workshop. He probably goes to the beach. When he is on this long vacation and at the beach, he probably goes surfing, swimming, scuba diving and most of all buys everything from a concession stand! The way he gets there is by magic. I really hope he doesn't take his reindeer because it would attract way too much attention! But I wonder....if Santa can really surf, scuba dive, and swim?

Lauren Puga

Santa goes on a vacation in the summer at Italy and France. In the winter, he goes to Mississippi to shop. After he delivers presents, he goes snowboarding. He gets on his Harley-Davidson Motorcycle and wears his leather pants and jacket. He drives to the spa to lose weight and gets a pedicure for his wife.

Kadisha Robinson

I think Santa goes on vacation to the beach, so he doesn't have to stay in the cold. He also probably goes there to go swimming and to relax in a beach chair with sunglasses on. He gets there in a car so nobody would recognize him. He also goes to give his reindeer a rest from flying. His wife would go too, but just to sit in the chairs and swim. His elves would stay at home to watch the reindeer and play with them. And then when he gets home, the house will be a mess.

C.W. Kinney

I think that Santa goes on his sleigh of reindeer. He is headed on his way to the South Pole to drop Mrs. Santa off. Santa and his reindeer stay for one day. So the next day, Santa and his reindeer set off to the beach and they have a good time just floating on the ocean and getting a tan.

Bryce Green

Santa goes to the East Pole. He goes by plane, but he has to go in disguise so no one will ask for presents. He goes in June. Santa goes to the East Pole because he wants to visit family and get away from the snow. When he is there, he says he will lose some weight.

Meagan Crane

I think Santa goes to the Bahamas so he can swim down to the bottom of the ocean with his wife Mrs. Claus. Santa Claus would go to the Bahamas so he could get away from the cold and icy wind of the North Pole. He goes two or three months before December and before he has to go to deliver presents for kids on the day before Christmas. Santa would come back on December 10th on my brother's birthday to see if he has been a good kid or not. I hope

Santa reads the paper while he is gone to the Bahamas with his wife, Mrs. Claus.

Laura Herrera

Santa goes to Hawaii with Mrs. Claus. He takes the sleigh and takes out his beach chair. He will get a tan. He will put on his sunglasses and take out his radio. Mrs. Claus is going swimming. Then after that she will hang out with her girlfriends. Santa brought his refrigerator. He made a sandwich with ham and cheese, mustard and bread. Meanwhile, Mrs. Claus is hanging on a 50-foot wave but wipes out. Then they leave.

Michael Williams



Mary Christmas.

Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by remembering that God's son was born to Mary. Such a marvellous gift Mary held in her arms and that we hold in our hearts. Mary Christmas. Merry Christmas.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve Service 10:30 PM December 24

Nursery Available

1001 Goliad 267-8201

http://www.stmarysbst.org/

Season's Greetings

The United Way of Big Spring & Howard County's Director and Board of Directors wish to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following:

Thank you to our Campaign Cabinet:

- Gonzales and Tom Johnson for Commercial Division
Mary Frances Malone and Chuck Pigwell for Community Division
Julie White and China Long for Community Division
Franklin Weber and Kevin Armstrong for Commercial Division
Debbie Green for CFC/M Hospital
Bill Davis and Carla Guinn for CFC/FCI
John Scott, Drew Mouton and Glynna Mouton for Pacesetter Division
Derrick Yu and Josh Hamby for Professional Division

Thank you to our Loaned Executives:

- Kevin Armstrong from Alon
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Dale Self and Debbie Green from the City of Big Spring
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Franklin Weber from State National Bank
Harley from WalMart
Robbs from Wells Fargo
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Pool from Western Container

Thank you to our Commercial Division:

- Chris Moore
Kim Howell
Mary Frances Malone
Gladys Thompson
Laura Murphree
Allan Johnson
Bob Hecker
Betty Kelley
Sam Stevens
Hayes Stripling
Pete Thiry
Brenda Conciencie
Tommy Welch
Gloria McDonald
Q. T. Coates

Thank you to our Allocations Committee Members:

- Dale Brown
Cheryl Truzskowski
Scott Nelson
Janice Bond
Lily Artourmian
Linda Weaver
Phill Fuqueron
Mary Frances Malone
Clarence Hatfield
Franklin Weber
Ken Tunstall
Clay Grizzle
Gladys Thompson
Terry Hansen
Roy Worthy
Pam Brewer

Thank you to all the restaurants who participated in "Dine Out Day for United Way"

- Al's & Son Bar B Q
Greg's Grill
Herman's Restaurant
Red Mesa Grill
K. C. Steaks
Schlotzsky's Dell
Sonic
Spanish Inn
Domino's Pizza

Thank you, Pam Brewer, for helping at the office

We wish to thank the following for their continuing support especially during our Kickoff First United Methodist Church Al's & Son Bar B Q

Lucy Knox for her wonderful flower arrangements

Walmart ~ Carlo's ~ Mel's Seafood

We wish to send a special "Thank You" to everyone at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for all of their hard work and major contributions during our campaign for our community

And a big THANKS to Charles Myers, our campaign chair, who spearheaded our largest campaign to date! Congratulations!

Thank you to all who helped make our "Spirit Day for United Way" such a success:

- Javier Florez
Clay Grizzle
All of the Howard College Hawk Cheerleaders
Charles Abolas
Kacie Acri
Dana Gonzales
Summer Davis
Jarit Martin
Hollie Gibbs
Linda Berry
Stan Feaster
Andy Nunez
Amber Ybarra
Cynthia Porter
Kalea Robbins
Jade Hughes
Jenna Schafer

Thank you for those who made the Victory Luncheon so memorable:

- Linda Lindell
Rhapsody from Big Spring High School

Thank you to the following employees of these companies for having 100% participation:

- American State Bank
First Big Spring Banking Center
First Bank of West Texas - with 100% at the Big Spring and Coahoma branches
Howard College
KBST Radio
Moore Development
Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Pollard Chevrolet
Power Resources
Trinity Memorial

Thank you to all of the media who helped promote our campaign

- The Big Spring Herald
KBST Radio - Mike Henry, Lisa Brooks & Tim Davis
"Morning Magazine" with Lisa Brooks
Channel 9 KWES TV
Johnnie Lou Avery of "Big Spring Today"

Without their contributions, both monetary and time, we would not have been able to reach our goal. Thank you, Big Spring and Howard County!

Big Spring Fire Gonzales, 6, Br Tuesday and to

Neigh

By LYNDEL MO

Staff Writer

Big Spring stationed on side of town on door Tuesday a group of people bearing gifts - gifts of thanks for the professionalism and kindness these firefighters exhibited to the community.

"This is a thank you for the fire department their hard work long, their dedication their job and professionalism when come into our tent to what going on," said Cisneroz, manager of Northside Laundromat. "I always real proud but they are kind."

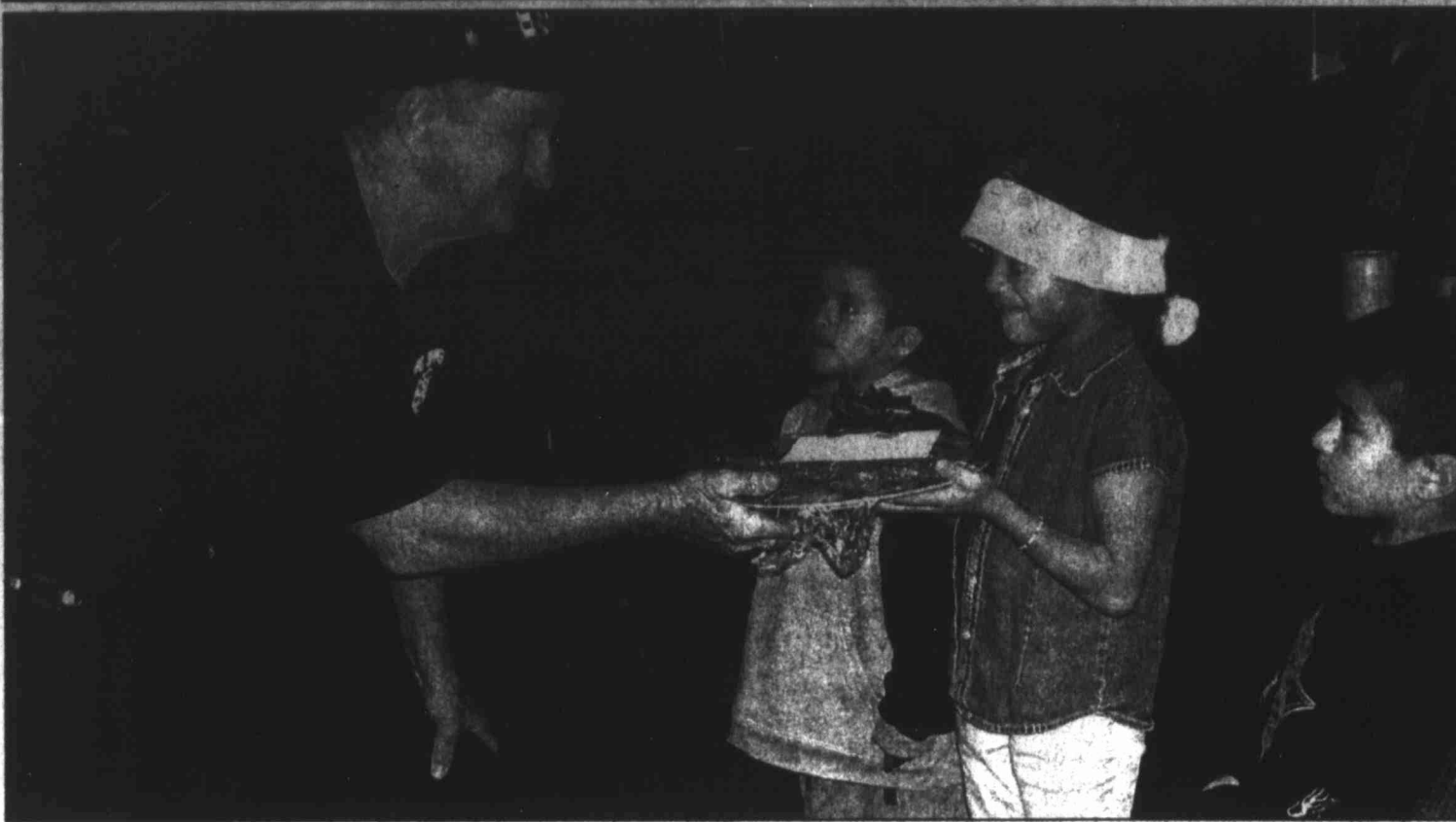
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Micha
Pablo
Louise



Big Spring Fire Department Lt. James Dubose accepts a batch of cookies from north side community residents Andre Gonzales, 6, Briana Valencia, 7, and Adam Gonzales, 4. Thirty-two residents provided treats to the firefighters throughout Tuesday and today to thank them for their service to the community.

## Neighborhood says thanks for a job well done

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring firefighters stationed on the north side of town opened their door Tuesday afternoon to a group of people bearing gifts — gifts of thanks for the professionalism and kindness these firefighters exhibit to the community.



**CISNEROZ**

"This is a thank you to the fire department for all their hard work all year long, their dedication to their job and their professionalism whenever they come into our home to tend to what we have going on," said Dolores Cisneroz, manager of Northside Classic Laundromat. "They are always real professional, but they are also very kind."

Thirty-two families

were expected to bring sweet treats and cards of thanks throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, so each shift that covers calls at the fire station has a chance to be personally thanked by residents for their excellent service.

"We don't often get thanks, so it's nice when we have something," said firefighter James Phelps. "It makes your day go really good."

The effort was born at one of the neighborhood gathering places — Northside Classic Laundry.

"This is a place all the Spanish ladies gather and visit," said Cisneroz. "One day we saw an ambulance headed down the street to this elderly man's house. He has one of those things where you can press a button and it calls the ambulance service."

"He accidentally presses it sometimes and his family said that no matter how many times he accidentally presses it, the paramedics are never upset and they just go in and make sure everything's OK."

Cisneroz said she had her own experience with how professional the firefighters treat residents while she was taking care of her elderly, bed-ridden father.

"Sometimes, he would run into breathing problems and stuff and I had to call them," she said.

"People on this side of town sometimes are very wary of people coming into their homes. They're not very trusting, especially older people. Well, he always felt comfortable with them."

"They were always in my home and they were professional, plus they really cared about how

they handled him and respected him in his home. I was always very grateful to them."

Eight businesses located on the north side also got in the act by donating money to help purchase a lighted Christmas tree to adorn the station's lawn. They are Kwikie's, Koshmoor Kasuals, Kisiah Mexican Imports, Nana's Kitchen, Carlos's Restaurant, Nacho's, Kate's Fina Mart and the Northside Classic Laundromat.

The tree was delivered Tuesday afternoon, along with the first batch of goodies, which were baked by the elderly residents of the community.

"The rest of the families will continue throughout the day that have been assigned for today," Cisneroz said Tuesday. "They will bring a plate of goodies with them and a card from the families."

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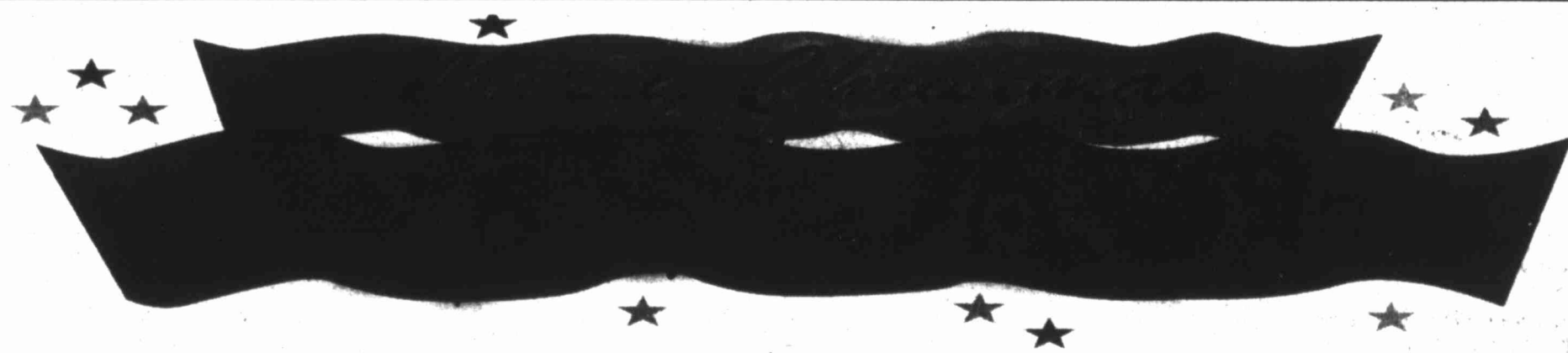
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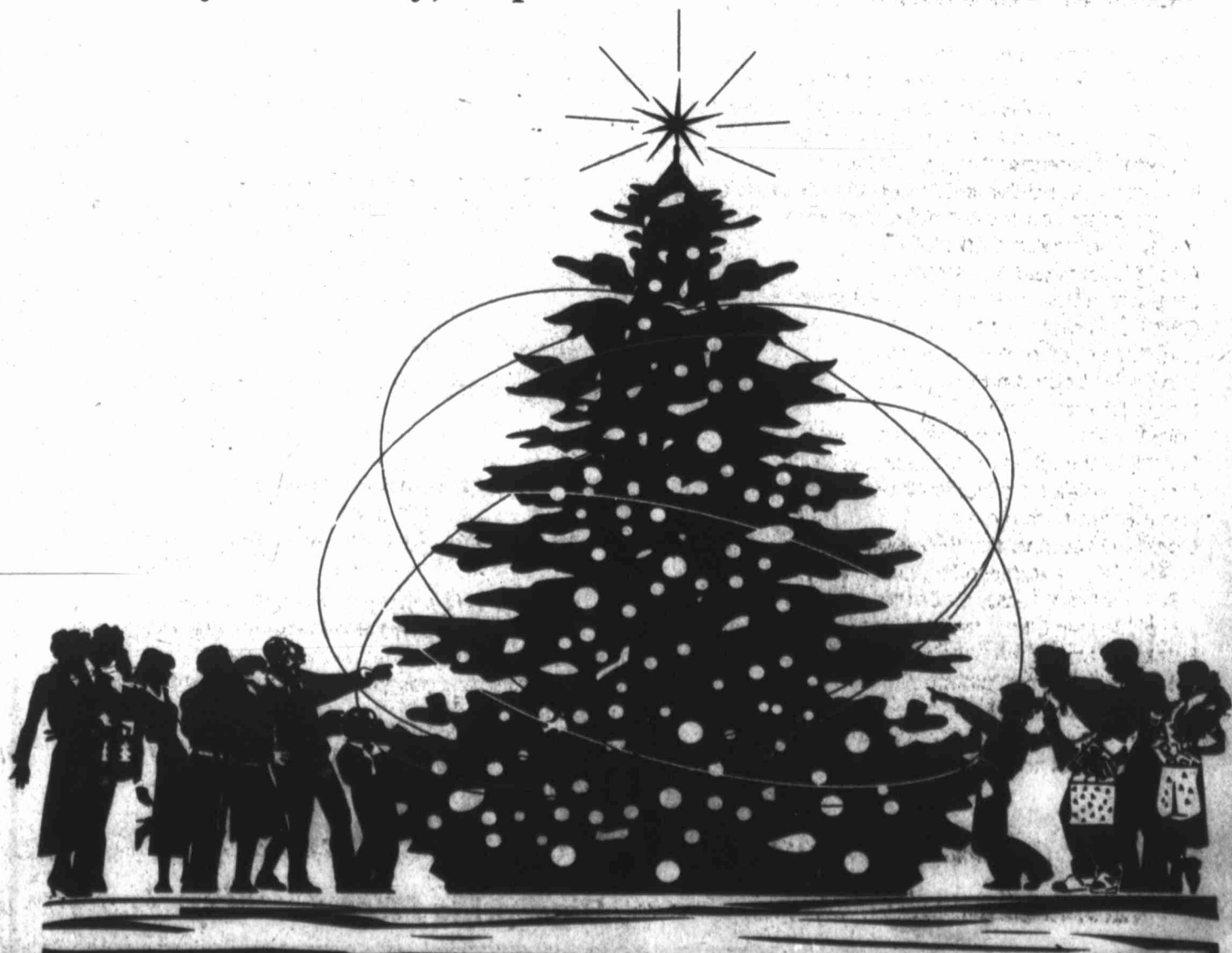
From The

## Permian Basin Medical Society Physicians

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We are physicians who promote a Healthy Community, Proposition 12 and The VA Medical Center.

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Santa Claus checks his reindeer for the trip around the world delivering Christmas presents.

## Santa Claus evolved into a lovable Christmas character

18th-century America's Santa Claus was not the only St. Nicholas-inspired gift-giver to make an appearance at Christmas. Similar figures were popular all over the world.

Christkind or Kris Kringle was believed to deliver presents to well-behaved Swiss and German children.

Meaning "Christ child," Christkind is an angel-like figure often accompanied by St. Nicholas on his holiday missions. In Scandinavia, a jolly elf named Jultomten was thought to deliver gifts in a sleigh drawn by goats.

English legend explains that Father Christmas visits each home on Christmas Eve to fill children's stockings with holiday treats. Pere Noel is

responsible for filling the shoes of French children.

In Russia, it is believed that an elderly woman named Babouschka purposely gave the wise men wrong directions to Bethlehem so that they couldn't find Jesus. Later, she felt remorseful, but could not find the men to undo the damage.

To this day, on Jan. 5, Babouschka visits Russian children leaving gifts at bedsides in the hope that one of them is the baby Jesus and she will be forgiven.

In Italy, a similar story exists about a woman called La Befana, a kindly witch who rides a broomstick down the chimneys of Italian homes to put toys into the stockings of lucky children.

## Make New Year's resolutions a reality

(NAPSI)—At the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, people worldwide will rejoice and welcome the new year.

Traditionally a time to celebrate with champagne and kisses, it is also a holiday notoriously littered with revelations and more importantly, resolutions.

While some are disciplined about establishing New Year's resolutions and sticking with them throughout the year, many fumble and promptly forget original intentions.

Whether the goal is eating healthy, exercising, reading more, taking up a new hobby or volunteering, any resolution can be accomplished if approached carefully.

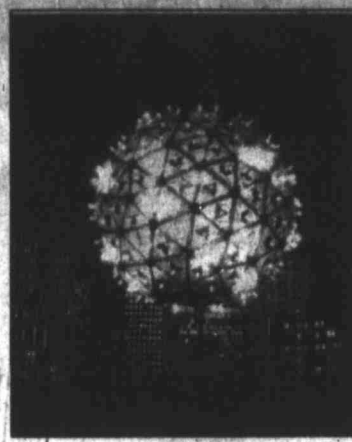
This year make some simple and straightforward goals to help achieve New Year's resolutions once and for all.

Instead of committing to too many resolutions at once, focus on a single goal and make sure that it is one you are serious about achieving.

Once you have defined the task, break it down into manageable steps with clearly defined results so that you can track your progress along the way.

Write down a resolution and place it in an area that is highly visible to review.

Consider sticking the reminder up on the



The count down soon will begin for the famous Times Square crystal ball.

refrigerator, a computer screen, a message board, or on the dashboard of the car.

When wording a resolution, keep the language positive and inspirational.

For example, if trying to reduce stress in your life is a goal, a reminder that shouts "don't get stressed" will be less effective than one that suggests simple, actionable ways of relaxing, such as "take a deep breath" or "visualize a soothing image."

It's easier to commit to a resolution when one feels strong both inside and out.

Helpful steps to take include incorporating an exercise regimen into a busy schedule, lowering intake of fat and implementing a well-balanced diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables, lean meats and dairy products.

Kathleen Daelemans, celebrity chef and author of "Cooking Thin with Kathleen Daelemans" and the upcoming book, "Getting Thin and Loving Food", offers this advice, "stocking your pantry with grab and go, better-for-you ingredients will allow you to whip up easy meals on those nights that feel like they're getting the best of you." "A tuna pasta salad with lemon-caper mayonnaise dressing is a soul satisfying, creamy delicious supper you can create in the time it takes to boil noodles, especially if you've got some kitchen essentials on hand such as light mayonnaise and white albacore tuna." Visit the [manns.com or \[www.bestfoods.com\]\(http://www.bestfoods.com\) for other delicious low-fat ideas.](http://www.hell-</a></p></div>
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Make a list of things that could prevent keeping resolutions, such as illness, a busy travel schedule, lack of time or cold weather.

Coordinate a plan that considers the inevitable obstacles of life, offer clear incentives, no matter how small, for reaching your personal goals, and don't let a few weak moments or days turn into a year of unfulfilled resolutions.

only way to truly control the quantity and quality of food you're consuming," says Daelemans.

The key to a successful New Year's resolution is creating attainable goals and having realistic expectations.

With these helpful tips take charge of New Year's resolutions in 2004.

Happy Holidays from Life.

Read us online: [bigspringherald.com](http://bigspringherald.com)

It's easier to commit to a resolution when one feels strong both inside and out.

Inform family, friends and co-workers of the intended New Year's initiatives and have them act as a support group.

There is strength in numbers and partnering with those who have similar goals will help keep things on track.

If dieting is the year's undertaking, Daelemans suggests meeting up with friends once a week to create an outrageously delicious, you'll-never-know-its-low-fat meal.

"Cooking at home more and eating out less is the

**SILVER BELLS SILVER BELLS**

We'd like to chime in with our best wishes and thanks. Merry Christmas!

**NAPA Auto Parts**

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**Joyous Noël**

May the glory of the season be with you. We appreciate your generosity and kindness, and look forward to serving you again.

**John & Tana Kennemur**

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## Hanukkah celebrates a miracle

In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, who outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C.E. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. Fighting against the Greeks began in Modiin, a village near Jerusalem. A Greek officer asked Mattathias, a

Jewish high priest, to take part in idol worship. After the killing of the officer high priest Mattathias and his five sons and other villagers attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains with other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks. A year after the rebellion started, Mattathias died. His son Judah Maccabee took charge. After three years the Jews defeated the Greek army.

Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy Temple, and cleaned and

repaired the temple, and a dedication ceremony was planned. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask containing only enough oil to light the menorah for one day.

Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days, giving them time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every eight days. Giving gifts each night was an observance which evolved over time.

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Christmas in the 70's brought us Electronic Ping-Pong and the Gift of Jesus

Christmas in the 80's brought us Cabbage Patch Dolls and the Gift of Jesus

Christmas in the 90's brought us Tickle Me Elmo and the Gift of Jesus

Notice how the true classics never go out of style?

Please join us at

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, 9th & Scurry**  
In Celebrating Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All.

**December 21, 6:30 p.m.**  
Old-Fashioned Congregational Caroling Service

**December 25, 10 a.m.**  
Christmas Day Celebration

The gift of Jesus, the only gift on earth that will outlast earth!

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The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is "to serve Jesus Christ in word and deed, through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the love of God so that everyone may have Eternal life"

**A TIME FOR GIVING**

The most precious gift of all, is the gift of friendship. We thank you so much, for giving us yours. Happy Holidays!

**Western Container Corporation**

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### God's

A poem by Anderson  
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**God's Gift**

A poem by Martha Anderson Peugh

Oh, precious Lord Jesus,  
Heaven sent from above,  
God's gift to all mankind,  
Of mercy and love.  
Each day's a celebration,  
As God's gift is received  
And Jesus is welcomed in  
Hungry hearts that believed.  
Oh, the feast that he spreads,  
As God's supply begins,  
In the Bible's dear pages,  
From the word with no end.  
He is Almighty To meet every need,  
To nurture his children and  
Their hungry souls feed.  
Just open you Bible,  
A love letter to you.  
God's gift that keeps giving  
Your whole lift through.

**Help someone get through holiday grief**

(NAPSI)-The approaching holiday season can be difficult for those who have experienced the death of someone they love, and friends and family are often uncertain what they can do to help. Questions may arise about what songs, traditions or moments to avoid, but people may be uncomfortable asking.

They may not understand their pain, but want to help them enjoy the holidays again.

Experts say each individual deals with grief uniquely during the holidays.

"Structured programs, processes or phases may not apply to grief and loss," says George W. Clarke, executive director of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, an association of privately owned funeral homes, many of which are offering grief



Holiday griefs are a part of life, but just being available to talk can help a friend or loved one through a troubled time.

programs in their local community.

"Each person has different needs to get through the holidays, and the most valuable support friends and family can offer is to listen."

American Association Retired People's (AARP) Grief and Loss Programs also believes listening is a powerful tool, but distin-

guishes between conversation and what they call "active listening." According to their Web site, "You want your response to convey respect, build trust, and prevent misunderstanding. Often a good listener paraphrases in his or her own words what the speaker has said... It's important to check to see

if you have understood correctly. Often you can tell by their nonverbal response, e.g. whether they seem to nod in agreement or shake their head from side to side indicating disagreement."

Clarke points to three things to consider when comforting a loved one during the holidays:

For many dealing with loss, the holidays are about survival, and celebration cannot be forced. If old traditions increase the pain of the holidays, discuss new traditions that might honor the person who has died.

Nothing you can say or do can alleviate or increase your loved one's grief.

Do not try to make your own experiences or advice relevant, but focus on their needs.

Ask questions and share memories, but do not

shift the focus to your experiences.

"Getting on with life," "forgetting the past," and "time heals all wounds" are phrases that may be well intended, but are seldom helpful.

Your loved one is learning to live with loss. Be available when he or she wants to talk, and encourage him or her to do so when ready.

For more information on grief and loss, visit the Web site [www.selectedfuneralhomes.org](http://www.selectedfuneralhomes.org), or at [www.griefandloss.org](http://www.griefandloss.org).

**Story idea?**

Contact Life desk with your story suggestion.  
263-7331, Ext. 236 or  
e-mail  
[life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

**Read us online:**  
[bigspringherald.com](http://bigspringherald.com)

**Writers to meet in January**

Author Wayne Barton will present the program at the West Texas Writers meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3 in the second floor meeting room of the Midland County Library.

Barton has been writing professionally for more than 20 years having had numerous short stories, articles and novels published. He received the Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award and the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

The library is located at 301 W. Missouri in Midland. Call 432-694-5496 for more information.

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center  
Our dedicated and customer friendly staff can confirm your pregnancy while you wait. They can also provide you with information regarding Prenatal Care, Childbirth Education, Understanding Labor and Delivery and even make your first appointment with a competent, local OB/GYN physician.  
**SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER**  
*Special Delivery and Women's Services*  
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Tel: (432) 268-4550

  
**Sale Starts Friday, December 26th**  
**Door Opens at 10:00 am**  
**50% off**  
**Entire Stock Christmas Items And Other Merchandise**  
*Happy Holidays*  
**Suggs Hallmark**   
Inside Big Spring Mall - 263-4444

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**Happy Holidays From Our Home To Yours!**



L-R - Rosanne Joy, Christie Munoz, Jennifer Bowman, Rose Garcia, Linda Arredondo.



L-R - Kim Lane, Marie Torres, Christina Ontiveros, Ray Carreon.

*Before we close on another year we'd like to list our best wishes here. Along with appreciation and gratitude, too, for each and everyone of you.*

*May your home be blessed with love and laughter.*



L-R - Jennifer Noble, Roxie Grissom, Regina Ward, Kim York, Kirk McKnight, Debbie Read, Kim Gee.



L-R - Patty Kirkpatrick, Brenda Hamm, Joe Torres, Sherry Hodnett, Vickie Opegard.



*"Serving People Until God Sees Fit To Call Them Home"*

**600 S. Gregg 264-7599**  
**Big Spring, Texas**

# holiday greetings

from the  
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and carriers at the



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Mavericks vs. Sacramento  
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Spurs vs. Orlando, 7 p.m.

### IN BRIEF

#### Ten Star seeking all-star applications

Applications are being accepted for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply.

Camp locations include Commerce and Sterling, Colo.

For more information call (704) 373-0873.

#### Hawks to return to court against CVC

The Howard College Lady Hawks will return to action on Jan. 3, when they travel to Lancaster to face Cedar Valley College.

The Hawks, who will open Western Junior College Athletic Conference play on Jan. 12, against Frank Phillips, entered the holiday break sporting a 5-3 record.

#### Steers to participate in Lamesa tourney

The Big Spring Steers close out the 2003 year with an appearance in the Lamesa Invitational Basketball Tournament, beginning Monday, Dec. 29.

The BSJS junior varsity will also play in the three-day tournament.

Big Spring, 3-11 overall, is scheduled to open District 4-4A play on Jan. 16 with a bout against Frenship.

#### BSHS swimmers face 4-4A meet on Jan. 23

Big Spring High School swim team will try and nail down the District 4-4A swimming title on Jan. 23 when they travel to Fort Stockton.

The Steers, under coach Harlan Smith, finished second to district rival Pecos at the recent Aqua Tribe Invitational Swim Meet in Seminole.

#### Region V Softball Tournament moving

The Region V Softball Tournament will be moving to Midland this April, Howard College officials announced.

The tournament, which was played at Abilene Christian University's Wells Field last year, will be held April 29-30.

The Lady Hawks will open their 2004 softball season on Feb. 6 against the Cisco Junior College Lady Wranglers. The team's first home game will be Feb. 12 against Ranger.

#### Collin County to host Region V hoops

Collin County Community College in Plano will host the Region V men's and women's basketball tournaments on March 4-7.

The Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks will begin WJCAC action on Jan. 12, when they travel to Borger to face Frank Phillips College. The first home conference games at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be played Jan. 15 against Clarendon.

### ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Station
Mavericks vs. Sacramento, 4:30 p.m.	3490
Spurs vs. Orlando, 7 p.m.	3490

## Cowboys hoping to build momentum in Week 16

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys already have enjoyed tremendous accomplishments this season by breaking out of their also-ran status to post a winning record and make the playoffs.

And they may not be done collecting milestones just yet.

With one game left in their debut season under coach Bill Parcells, the Cowboys can still be NFC East champions, earn a first-round playoff bye and be at home for the second round.

That's a trifecta they haven't hit since 1995, their last Super Bowl season.

For it to happen, Philadelphia must lose at Washington on Saturday night and Dallas must win at New Orleans on Sunday. If both don't occur, the Cowboys are guaranteed no worse than a wild-card game at Minnesota, Green Bay or Carolina.

The Cowboys will know what's at stake before kickoff in the Superdome. Even if the division prize is off the table, there will



Dallas Cowboys

be another lure: laying claim to the greatest single-season turnaround in team history.

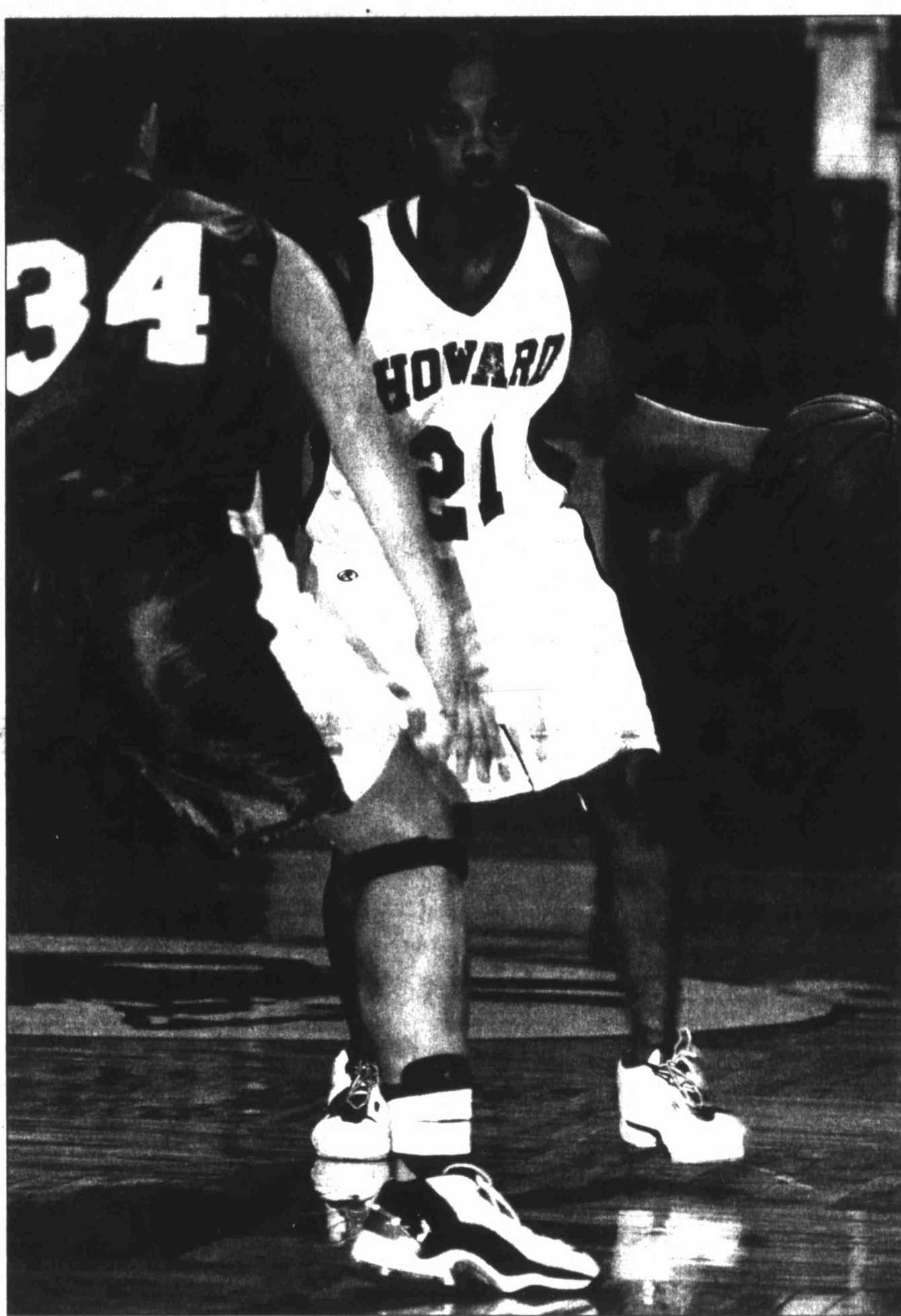
Another victory would make them 11-5, the mirror image of the 5-11 mark they've been stuck at the last three seasons. Quaint as that might be, it's also significant because the six extra wins would match the franchise's most.

The last time Dallas improved by six games was 1990, coach Jimmy Johnson's second season. While that club laid the founda-

tion for greater success, they missed the playoffs that year. It also happened under coach Tom Landry in 1983, but that was in part because the strike limited the Cowboys to 6-3 in '82.

"Should we not have our expectations up now?" Parcells said Monday, alluding to his season-long message that the team must continue aiming high.

"You can't sit around here and accept kudos very long, or admire your work. I learned that from boxing. If you admire your work too long in boxing, usually See COWBOYS, Page 2B



One of only three players back from last year's 10-20 campaign, Howard College sophomore LaTasha Davis has been a key part of the Lady Hawks' ability to begin the 2003-2004 season with an 8-7 record. The HC women will begin the second half of the year on Jan. 25 in Hobbs, N.M.

## Rejuvenated Lady Hawks head into second half with plenty of weapons

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

Lorin Miller and Dallas Cowboys' head coach Bill Parcells have a little in common. Both took over floundering programs this summer and created hope where nothing but gloom had lived for years.

Both Miller and Parcells took rag-tag teams and molded them into winning teams heading into the Christmas holidays — something few believe possible.

Even Parcells, however, would have to tip his cap to Miller's resurrection of the once-proud Howard College women's basketball program has been nothing short of a miracle.

To understand Miller's success, is to understand the depths the Lady Hawks had fallen only a season before. Hampered by in-fighting and a lack of depth, the Howard College women's program stumbled to a last-place finish in the

Western Junior College Athletic Conference in 2003.

Miller, a former National Basketball League assistant coach, made an immediate impact on the HC program. Within weeks of taking over the program, he began rebuilding the HC roster by assembling an all-star cast of transfers and recruits. When the season tipped off in November, only three players remained from the previous fall.

The moves have paid big dividends. The Lady Hawks opened their 2003-2004 season with six wins in their first eight games.

A recent slump sent the HC women into the holidays at 8-7 — within two games of last year's mark with half a season yet to be played.

Part of the reason for the Lady Hawks' success has been the play of sophomore Desire' Bostice. A 6-foot-5 standout, she has averaged 14.7 points and 6.9 rebounds a night this year.

Freshman Clara Tidwell and

sophomore transfers Erin Lohafer and Kristen Valentine have also made major contributions. Tidwell, who has sank 37 3-point attempts in HC's first 15 games, has averaged 13.3 points. Lohafer has scored 12.3 points and night and leads the Lady Hawks in rebounding with an 8.5 per game mark.

Valentine has averaged just under 10 points a game and leads the team in blocked shots with 20.

Sophomores Kristen Davis and LaTasha Davis have added 9.7 and 8.3 points a night. Davis, who along with Bostice and Dana Davis are the only returning players from last season, leads the team in assists with 49.

Colorado City freshman Alison Lopez has blossomed quickly, averaging 9.7 points. She also leads the team in steals with 23 and free-throw shooting percentage at .822.

The Lady Hawks will open the second half of play on Jan. 5

## Reliant fans becoming big weapon for Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — You might think Dom Capers gets a cut of fourth quarter concessions revenue the way his Texans have kept home games uncannily close this season.

No, he doesn't, but Houston's 27-24 loss to Tennessee in the waning seconds Sunday was the sixth straight home game that has come down to the final few plays.

"I think we've proven we can play with the best teams in this league,"

Capers said.

"Now the next step is to go out and find a way to win those types of games."

Houston, 5-11, has split those tight home games. An Internet fan poll set up by the Texans' flagship radio station Monday took a half-empty approach, asking listeners to vote on which of the three losses was the most heart-rending.

The choices were Sunday's loss to Tennessee on a 23-yard fourth-down TD pass from Steve McNair to Drew Bennett with 17 seconds left; 23-20 to New England on Nov. 23 late in overtime; or 19-14 to the New York Jets on Oct. 19, when Vinny Testaverde led a 2-minute comeback and the Texans were unable to counter.

The half-full side of the equation is a daring 1-yard TD dive as time expired Sept. 28 in a 24-20 victory over Jacksonville; the injury-worn defense preserving a 14-10 fourth-quarter lead Nov. 2 against Carolina; and the onside kick covered by Marcus Coleman with 1:24 left in a 17-13 win over Atlanta on Nov. 30.

Houston's ability to stay close at home is getting noticed.

"This has become a very tough place to play," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said after the game. "We couldn't just come out here and play. We had to do some special things."

David Carr said he thought the din during McNair's final drive was the loudest he's ever heard at a football stadium. Safety Marlon McCree concurred.

"This stadium was amazing," he said. "It was a playoff atmosphere. I can't wait until this team starts winning and gives the fans something to be proud of. It's a lot of fun when the fans

See TEXANS, Page 2B

## WJCAC to move baseball tourney

The Howard College Hawks will face a little longer road trip this year when time for the Western Junior College Athletic Conference Baseball Tournament rolls around.

WJCAC officials announced recently the 2004 baseball tournament would be shifting from Midland to El Paso. The tournament is scheduled for April 22-24.

The Hawks are slated to begin their 2004 season on Jan. 30 by hosting NMMI at Jack Barber Field.

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COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B  
something happens and it's not good news." Defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said "there's no pinch-me stuff" going on in the locker room. Players recognize what they've done — and what can still happen. "We've got a shot, a heck of an opportunity here," he said. "Believe it. It's right here in your face." The Cowboys clinched their first playoff berth since 1999 by beating the New York Giants 19-3 on Sunday. A few hours later, the Eagles lost in overtime to San Francisco, keeping alive Dallas' division dreams.

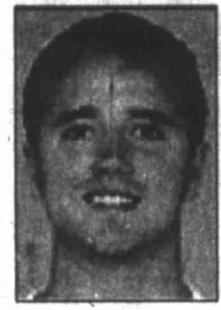
TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B  
stand behind you." Capers believes the Texans, buoyed in part by their fans, are developing a reputation as a dangerous team to play at home. "To be a good football team, a playoff football team, you have to win your home games," Capers said. "When we give our fans something to give something excited about, I think the players feed off that. We have educated fans who know they can affect the game, and that's encouraging to me as we move forward." "I think it will become a big factor for us. Places get reputations for getting hard to go in and play, and as we improve our skill level, hopefully we can make this one of the toughest places to play in the National Football League."

"Washington could do us a huge favor by playing their best ball of their lives," Glover said. "I think they can do it." Across the locker room, running back Troy Hambrick all but sang "Hail to the Redskins." "I have a lot of trust in Washington," he said. "They're one of the greatest teams out there!" Even if Philadelphia reverts to form and wins a third straight division title, the Eagles already have done the Cowboys a big favor. The mere chance of playing for something big on Sunday will drive them all week and prevent them from looking forward to the playoffs. "It makes a big difference to our whole mindset," quarterback Quincy Carter said. "Everybody



PARCELLS



CUNDIFF

is going to be focused on the Saints. We can't be thinking about Minnesota or Green Bay now." The biggest thing Dallas needs against New Orleans is to continue the momentum it's built the last two weeks. Since losing three of four, the Cowboys have bounced back with two convincing wins, albeit against bad teams. Still, their top-ranked defense has allowed just three points and Carter continues to manage the offense efficiently by avoiding interceptions. Parcells said he's starting to expect big plays from the defense and he's finding more to like about his offense. They're fourth-best in the NFL in time of possession and they've achieved the ultimate in balance — 492 runs and 492 passes. Also, the special teams hit 10 of their 11 goals against the Giants, and the team has committed just five penalties over the last two games. "I'm happy about the opportunity," Parcells said, "but we've still got a lot to do."

Jones: WAC defensive player of the year won't play in bowl

HONOLULU (AP) — Warriors (8-5) play Western Athletic Conference defensive player of the year Travis LaBoy won't play in the Hawaii Bowl, Hawaii coach June Jones said. Jones said he hasn't heard from or seen the senior defensive end, voted by the team as its most valuable player, since Saturday. The Warriors (8-5) play Houston (7-5) on Thursday. "I haven't seen him, so he won't play," Jones said. LaBoy told The Honolulu Advertiser he will be academically ineligible to play. The WAC requires that student-athletes pass at least six credit hours in a semes-

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald  
American Profile  
Simple acts that meant so much  
It happens every day in every town in America. Ordinary people who go miles out of their way or take hours out of their day to do something kind for a stranger. Read about nine such acts of kindness. Plus, Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and wild rice salad.  
American Profile  
Celebrating Hometown Life

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BIG SPRING Wednesday  
THIS WEEK  
LAST WEEK  
GOLF WEEK PERFORMANCE  
The Golfweek/Sage Index assigns a power Tour and LPGA play golfers' records, strength of schedule, performance against other  
PG (Through 1)  
1. Tiger Woods  
2. Vijay Singh  
3. Ernie Els  
4. Mike Weir  
5. Jim Furyk  
6. Davis Love III  
7. Retief Goosen  
8. Fred Couples  
9. Kenny Perry  
10. Chad Campbell  
11. Robert Allenby  
12. Charles Howell III  
13. Nick Price  
14. Darren Clarke  
15. Scott Verplank  
16. Chris DiMarco  
17. Bob Estes  
18. Kirk Triplett  
19. Rocco Mediate  
20. Jay Haas  
21. Justin Leonard  
22. David Toms  
23. Peter Lonard  
24. Mark Calcavecchia  
25. Loren Roberts  
26. Stewart Cink  
27. Brad Faxon  
28. Phil Mickelson  
29. Jerry Kelly  
30. Padraig Harrington  
31. Fredrik Jacobson  
32. Zach Johnson  
33. Briny Baird  
34. John Huston  
35. Stephen Ames  
36. Robert Gomez  
37. Kevin Sutherland  
38. K.J. Choi  
39. Dan Pflieger  
40. Paul Casey  
41. Stuart Appleby  
42. Skip Kendall  
43. Fred Funk  
44. Hideki Tanaka  
45. Jeff Sluman  
46. Toshimitsu Izawa  
47. Tom Lehman  
48. Duffy Waldorf  
49. Brandt Jobe  
50. Nick O'Hern  
51. Tim Herron  
52. Woody Austin  
53. Alex Cejka  
54. Nicolas Fash  
55. Shaun Micheel  
56. Bob Tway  
57. Chris Riley  
58. Rory Sabbatini  
59. Jonathan Byrd  
60. Ben Crane  
61. Stephen Leaney  
62. Lee Janzen  
63. Brian Davis  
64. Steve Flesch  
65. Jonathan Kaye  
TRIVIA  
Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer share the record of most consecutive years winning at a tournament with 17.  
Ernie Els won the 16th PGA European Tour after he entered in 2000.  
In eight seasons on the PGA Tour, Tiger Woods earned six PGA Tour Year awards.  
Foreclosures & revelations from the man  
GOLF SEC  
Tjaart Van der Walt followed him from the finals of PGA Tour to it safely from his Fla., his clubs did Scrambling to Walt ended up rounds of competition each of the first TaylorMade 510 rounds.  
Van der Walt Vokey wedges th

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**

There is no new poll question this week.

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION**

Which is your favorite Challenge Season event?

No. of votes: 456

Event	percent
Target World Challenge	38%
Skins Game	20%
Father-Son Challenge	13%
Franklin Templeton Shootout	8%
PGA Grand Slam of Golf	8%
Wendy's Three-Tour Challenge	8%
UBS Cup	5%

**GOLFWEER/SAGARIN PERFORMANCE INDEX**

The Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index assigns a power rating to PGA Tour and LPGA players. It is based on golfers' records, each player's strength of schedule and performance against other players.

**PGA**

(Through Dec. 14)

1. Tiger Woods	67.03
2. Vijay Singh	67.45
3. Ernie Els	67.71
4. Mike Weir	68.00
5. Jim Furyk	68.03
6. Davis Love III	68.47
7. Retief Goosen	68.61
8. Fred Couples	68.61
9. Kenny Perry	68.68
10. Chad Campbell	68.84
11. Robert Allenby	68.95
12. Charles Howell III	68.99
13. Nick Price	69.02
14. Darren Clarke	69.12
15. Scott Verplank	69.14
16. Chris DiMarco	69.15
17. Bob Estes	69.18
18. Kirk Triplett	69.31
19. Rocco Mediate	69.37
20. Jay Haas	69.38
21. Justin Leonard	69.39
22. David Toms	69.39
23. Peter Lonard	69.42
24. Mark Calcavecchia	69.43
25. Loren Roberts	69.44
26. Stewart Cink	69.44
27. Brad Faxon	69.45
28. Phil Mickelson	69.49
29. Jerry Kelly	69.49
30. Padraig Harrington	69.55
31. Fredrik Jacobson	69.57
32. Zach Johnson	69.62
33. Briny Baird	69.64
34. John Huston	69.65
35. Stephen Ames	69.68
36. Robert Gamez	69.72
37. Kevin Sutherland	69.75
38. K.J. Choi	69.76
39. Dan Forsman	69.79
40. Paul Casey	69.80
41. Stuart Appleby	69.84
42. Skip Kendall	69.85
43. Fred Funk	69.89
44. Hidemichi Tanaka	69.91
45. Jeff Sluman	69.94
46. Toshimitsu Izawa	69.96
47. Tom Lehman	69.98
48. Duffy Waldorf	69.98
49. Brandt Jobe	70.00
50. Nick O'Hern	70.02
51. Tim Herron	70.04
52. Woody Austin	70.13
53. Alex Cejka	70.15
54. Niclas Fasth	70.20
55. Shaun Micheel	70.21
56. Bob Tway	70.22
57. Chris Riley	70.24
58. Rory Sabbatini	70.25
59. Jonathan Byrd	70.26
60. Ben Crane	70.26
61. Stephen Leaney	70.26
62. Lee Janzen	70.26
63. Brian Davis	70.29
64. Steve Flesch	70.29
65. Jonathan Kaye	70.34

— Golfweek

**TRIVIA**

■ **Jack Nicklaus** and **Arnold Palmer** share the PGA Tour record of most consecutive years winning at least one tournament with 17.

■ **Ernie Els** won five of the 16 PGA European Tour events he entered in 2003 for a winning percentage of .313.

■ In eight seasons on the PGA Tour, **Tiger Woods** has earned six PGA Player of the Year awards.

# Golf



"It was fun competing, rather than to have a six- or seven-shot lead and hanging on."

— **Davis Love III**, on winning the 2003 Target World Challenge by two strokes over runner-up Tiger Woods.

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## Character study

### Thatcher and Olsen are among the leading men at the grueling PGA Qualifying School

**P**GA Tour Qualifying School always is a cast of characters. At any time during six December days, six-hour rounds and 108 grueling Q-School holes, players fight for a share of the spotlight. The beauty is, no one knows who the leading men will be or even why they will lead. Will a man be known more for earning his PGA Tour card with late heroics, or will he throw it away with last-second disaster? Mix PGA Tour and European Tour winners, 20-year-olds, recent college All-Americans and major champions — U.S. Open winner Corey Pavin was there as a caddy — trying desperately to earn one of 30 Tour cards available for 2004, and it's a recipe filled with drama and suspense.



JAY COFFIN  
Golfweek

In a week of emotional and physical hell at Orange County National Golf Club, two of this year's biggest leading men were Roland Thatcher and Dan Olsen.

Two years ago, Thatcher, 26, was the character who evoked the most sympathy. Needing to make par on the 108th hole at Bear Lakes in West Palm Beach, Fla., to earn his card, he hit his driver left into thick rough, then sailed his approach over the green, off the cart path and onto the roof of the clubhouse. From there, he received a drop into bushes guarding the clubhouse, hacked out and his day was over.

"I couldn't believe it when it was happening," Thatcher said. "But there were still some positives there. A giant negative at the end didn't outdo the rest of the positive things that happened."

Positive things happened Dec. 8 at Orange County National when Thatcher converted a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to shoot 70 and earn his card on the number. Thatcher shot 73-70-68-75-69-70-425 to tie for 28th with six other golfers.

Olsen might have been the biggest surprise, tying for 12th despite a final-round 77, the highest round recorded by anyone who earned exempt status. But Olsen, 36, didn't surprise himself, shooting 74-68-66-69-67-77 for a 421. He was one of three men who had four rounds in the 60s.

Olsen played at Indiana University in the late 1980s, where he helped recruit PGA champion Shaun Micheel. But Olsen has never been in a position to display his talent, playing in only two PGA Tour events and nine Nationwide events since embarking upon a professional career in 1990. This was Olsen's first appearance in the Q-School final after 11 attempts.

Until now, Olsen's biggest golf accomplishment was at the 1992 Michigan Tournament of Champions, where he trailed by four with three holes remaining and closed birdie,

ace, birdie to win the event by a shot. The feat earned Olsen the nickname Mr. 3-1-3.

"It wasn't that big of a tournament but it was pretty amazing," Olsen said.

His 13 years as a professional have been eventful. Playing in high-profile tour events was never a big deal to Olsen, who preferred to stay home in Columbus, Ohio, saving money, working on his game and spending time with his wife, Margarita, and 4-year-old daughter Isabella. He'd rather find a local skins game to earn a few bucks than spend money to travel, risk missing a cut and not earn a check. He has played numerous mini-tours and worked many odd jobs. He's helped build houses, worked on asphalt crews during Midwest summers, done roofing work and even sold Christmas trees. "I was good at it. Douglas firs are the best," he said.

Despite what happened on the course, Olsen kept the punchlines rolling. After his shaky 77, an agent approached Olsen to present various equipment deals.

"I could've used a range ball and shot 77 out there today," Olsen told the agent.

He exuded playful cockiness and was brutally honest. While most players were grinding over every shot, a good time was the name of the game for Olsen.

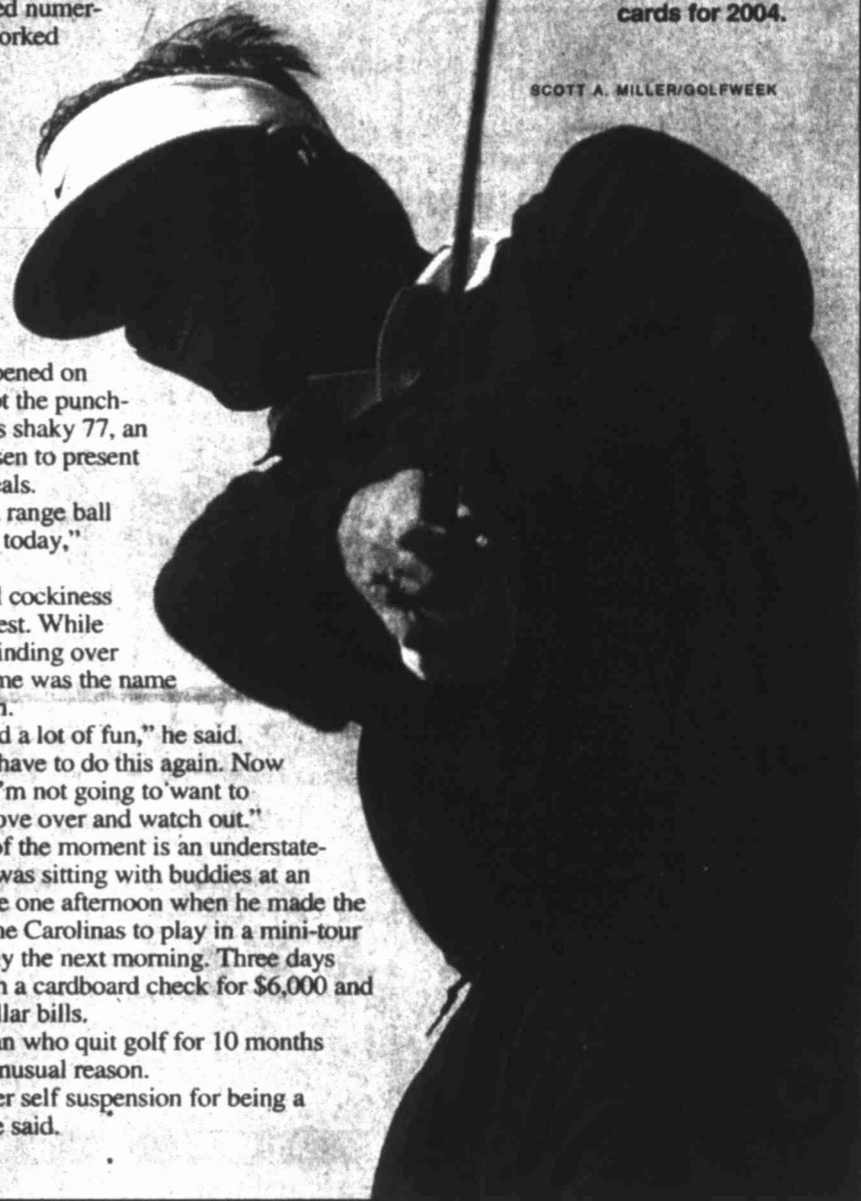
"This was nice and a lot of fun," he said. "But I don't want to have to do this again. Now that I have my card I'm not going to want to leave. They better move over and watch out." To say he's spur of the moment is an understatement. Years ago, he was sitting with buddies at an Indiana sports bar late one afternoon when he made the decision to drive to the Carolinas to play in a mini-tour event that started early the next morning. Three days later, he returned with a cardboard check for \$6,000 and a wad of hundred-dollar bills.

All this from a man who quit golf for 10 months last year for a most unusual reason.

"I put myself under self suspension for being a complete jackass," he said. Only at Q-School.

Dan Olsen watches a shot during PGA Tour Qualifying School at Orange County National Golf Club in Winter Garden, Fla. Olsen finished Q-School tied for 12th place. The top 30 finishers earn PGA Tour cards for 2004.

SCOTT A. MILLER/GOLFWEER



## At Q-School, golfers remember Bugg's unique life

BY REX HOGGARD  
Golfweek

**A**s news of pro golfer Jace Bugg's death swept across Orange County National Dec. 5, a quiet wave of sadness grew. Yet, as the reality of a lost life set in, the bereaved seemed to skip Kubler-Ross' five stages of grief, opting instead for celebration. Not a celebration of death, but of a unique life.

A life lived so fully and without pretense as to make the seriousness assigned to PGA Tour Qualifying School seem simple by comparison. Pressure isn't a 4-footer for par at the 108th hole with a Tour card hanging in the balance. Pressure is dragging yourself to the first tee when the only thing



Jace Bugg

you want in life is to be away from the golf course and with Bugg's family and friends during this emotional time.

"I thought about (leaving while) walking to the 10th tee (his first hole of the day) this morning," said David Branshaw, who first met Bugg at a Canadian Tour event in June 1999. "I wanted to get in the car. I kept thinking, it's not too late to walk over to the car and jump on a plane."

Never mind that Branshaw's 69-70 start represented his best chance to date to earn a PGA Tour card. He

stayed not because of his solid start but because it was what Bugg would have wanted.

"He'd be mad at me if I left," Branshaw said.

Bugg — who was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia shortly after the 2002 Nationwide Tour Championship — died much like he lived, quietly and with dignity. After 12 months of chemotherapy treatments and an unsuccessful bone marrow transplant, he suffered a brain hemorrhage early Dec. 4 and died a few hours later. He was 27.

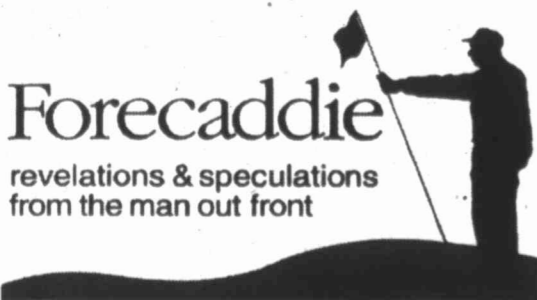
Bugg remained predictably positive to the end. Two days earlier, he dismissed questions about his own health and challenged Branshaw to make this week his last Q-School.

"We talked about normal stuff. He kept saying, 'You're good enough,'" Branshaw said.

Ken Duke, another Canadian Tour veteran who spent the week at Q-School wrestling with his emotions, found a kindred spirit in Bugg, another unassuming soul with a Southern drawl and simple approach to a complicated game.

There was a funeral service Dec. 8 in Henderson, Ky., at a church not far from the high school where Jace and his wife, Misty, became sweethearts.

At another ceremony, a few hours later and 825 miles to the south, Duke and Branshaw were accepting their PGA Tour cards after finishing tied for fourth and 12th, respectively, at Orange County National.



**Forecaddie**  
revelations & speculations  
from the man out front

### GETTING A SECOND CHANCE

Tjaart Van der Walt's tough luck seemed to follow him from the Nationwide Tour to the finals of PGA Tour Q-School. Although he made it safely from his native South Africa to Orlando, Fla., his clubs didn't.

Scrambling to put a new set together, Van der Walt ended up using five different drivers in six rounds of competition. He switched drivers after each of the first four rounds, finally settling on a TaylorMade 510 Tour Preferred for the final two rounds.

Van der Walt — who used Titleist irons and Vokey wedges throughout the 108-hole event,

along with a TaylorMade putter — closed with 69 to easily earn his PGA Tour card and redeem his final-round collapse at October's Nationwide Tour finale.

Van der Walt began his final round in Alabama with back-to-back double bogeys and finished 23rd on the money list, \$3,996 behind No. 20 Tommy Tolles. (The Nationwide's top 20 money winners earned PGA Tour cards for 2004.)

### NA SILENCES NAYSAYERS

When **Kevin Na** bucked conventional wisdom and turned pro in 2001, still a year shy of graduating from high school, many observers blasted the 17-year-old for being overly presumptuous. When he struggled to find a place to play early in his career, those same critics continued to question his bold jump to the pay-for-play ranks.

On Dec. 8, with six steady rounds behind him at windswept Orange County National, he finally had an answer for all the critics.

"I knew that by going through four years of hard work I'd be better off than most guys who go to college for four years," Na said after his 21st-place finish earned him his first trip to the PGA Tour.



SCOTT A. MILLER/GOLFWEER

After going pro in 2001, Kevin Na, 20, finally earned his PGA Tour card on Dec. 8.

Na, 20, was the youngest member of the 2003 Q-School graduating class but he wasn't the youngest player in the field — that honor belonged to **Ted Potter Jr.** at 20 years, 24 days — nor was Na the youngest to earn his Tour card. In 2001, **Ty Tryon** became the youngest Q-School grad at age 17.

### TAP-INS AND LIP-OUTS

■ After 13 trips, **Bobby Gage** is all too familiar with the nerve-racking nuances that come with the six-round torture chamber that is Q-School. So when he arrived this year relaxed and ready for the first round, he knew something was wrong. Six holes into his opening round those warm, easy feelings were replaced by piercing chest pain, and soon Gage was on his way to the hospital.

"I knew things weren't exactly right," he said. "I was unusually calm. The whole morning was a little different for me. It definitely put Q-School in perspective."

Emergency medical personnel gave Gage, 38, a nitroglycerin tablet, which eased the pain, and a family history of heart problems prompted him to withdraw.

"Talk about unlucky 13th," Gage joked two days later.

Gage's father, Charlie, died of a heart attack at age 39 and Gage's brother also has struggled with heart problems, but a battery of tests quelled Bobby's greatest concerns.

The good news: Gage, who played the PGA Tour in 1998, will have status on the Nationwide Tour next year. The bad: He didn't get his entry fee refunded.

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For Sale, Intel 2.2 GHz 2 - 80 MByte Hard Drives, 1.0 GByte of memory, Rambus 400MHz, Nvidia Video Card w/128 MByte of Memory, DVD & CD Writer and Reader (HP), DVD & CD Reader (Plexor), LCD 17" monitor, 250 Watt 5.1 Dolby 5 speaker set, modem, 10/100 ethernet card, many more options. MS Keyboard/MS Optical mouse. Window XP installed. \$1,500. 263-3519

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**BY JOYCE JILLSON**

Capricorn vibes permeate the atmosphere, which makes it all the more important to honor the traditions set forth by those before. You can't go wrong taking a conservative approach to the holiday, but Venus in Aquarius promises that no matter how you try to stick to the book, there will be creative touches that smack of a totally fresh attitude.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Unfinished business causes strain and stress. The remedy is easy! Get it done, and get back your old zest. Kids want to help you, so let them. Tonight: People will know you according to the friends you keep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Yikes, a conflict: Run for the hills! That's what you wish I would advise, but unfortunately, my sweet Taurus, this one is better if you face it. It might even back down, cowering in the shadow of your great courage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Look at people's motives for doing what they do. Insist on the quality you deserve. Friends will be asking for small favors. Define the terms first. So much is at stake now, it's not a time to get bogged down in details.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Valuable alone time accelerates your learning and inspires a more complete understanding of where you are now. A loved one goes above and beyond the call of duty, and you'll feel like you don't deserve it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll probably assess your current scene and think that this is beyond your control. That's when you roll with it. If you argued with loved one or mate recently, do something romantic this afternoon to make up for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Opportunities for soul-searching and philosophizing are plenty. It's a more vivid, colorful world when you understand the way things work on many levels, especially spiritual ones. Intelligence makes you exciting to be around.

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

every sign finds its energy from a different source. Where will you get your motivation in 2004? GEMINI: As long as your project is hip, new and a little glamorous, too, you've got energy to burn. Then, you get to the part where you've got to work with less-than-"with-it" people, and it's a big energy suck. Lose preconceived notions about what is cool, and embrace differences in individuals. Fighting them will only slow you down and make you doubt yourself. In the end, it's differences of opinion that make your project better. CANCER: If there is one point of view that will give you motivation to conquer new goals in 2004, it's gratitude. When you are grateful for all you have and all you've been given, motivation remains high to add more skills, relationships and dollars to your scene. The opposite quality, a feeling like nothing is enough, will be your

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't buy into the mentality that says you should be further along in life than you are. Such thinking is a waste of time and takes away from your ability to do something in the present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This engaging day causes you to forget all about yourself. Someone smart and funny steals your heart. Keep your perspective positive and routine regular. Stop fretting about how attractive you are; others see your sexy spark.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Home and hearth beg for attention, and projects you've been procrastinating forever will suddenly seem very doable — perhaps all you need is an hour to cross off your list the very task you thought would be a pain.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mental clarity is what you need to take advantage of the opportunity today presents. Unexpected events can have a fortunate effect on your finances or your personal life if you're ready to jump on them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though home and hearth are where kindness begins, they are not where it should end. Get out and share with the world. Reality is relative. Don't reject crazy notions in favor of conventional wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What's old may break down — just the excuse you need to make a change. Be grateful for that awkward situation you get thrown into — this could cement a romantic bond. Your to-do list is just plain too long.

HERE'S HOW TO TAP INTO YOUR INNER GETTER: The coming year will bring help to those who help themselves and will rain luck down on the moving target. But the truth is,

**nemesis all year. Fight this feeling as you would a fierce enemy!**

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ricky Martin has the strong, stoic influence of his native Capricorn sun but also the intuitive, highly sensitive side of his Pisces moon. This makes for a difficult combination sometimes when he's not sure who to get close to — but when he does get close, he gives everything. Great joy and great pain could be wrapped into one experience this year for Martin and other Capricorn sun/Pisces moon people.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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**Annie's Mailbox®**

Dear Readers: For the millions around the world who celebrate this holiday, we trust you are spending the time doing meaningful things, and enjoying family and friends.



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Here is a little Christmas blessing that came our way over the Internet. We hope you enjoy it: During this Christmas season, May you be blessed with

The spirit of the season, which is peace, The gladness of the season, which is hope, And the heart of the season, which is love.

Dear Annie: I would like to share a story that happened to me last year at this time. I truly experienced Christmas. Not the glittery, frantic, stressed-out occasion, but the selfless, quiet and gentle Christmas.

While in the checkout line at the store, I chatted with a beautiful young woman about some books that were in her cart. Someone had recently recommended those same books to help me through the sudden and tragic loss of my dear mother-in-law. I was still grieving and not in much of a mood to be shopping. For me, the Christmas season had lost its festiveness.

This young lady shared with me that she had lost her grandmother and was grieving, too. As she left, she wished me a Merry Christmas with a sweet smile. I was making my way to the car when this same lovely woman ran up to me. She extended her hand with the two books we had discussed. She said she wanted me to have them because she, too, knew how difficult it is to lose someone you love. With a hug she was gone.

In the few seconds that this encounter took place, I never found out her name. Yet the kindness of a stranger brought me back to the real meaning of this most precious season. I knew it before, but now I am thoroughly convinced that God sends His angels when we need them the most. I want to say thank you to that dear angel for her compassionate heart. — Cherrie

Dear Cherrie: What a heartwarming story, filled with compassion and kindness, and a true feeling of the holiday

spirit. We hope the lovely young woman who gave you those books will see this letter and know that you are talking about her. Thank you for sharing this with our readers.

Dear Annie: Why do people use Christmas cards to give news of terrible personal tragedies? I recently received two cards informing me of horrible illnesses in the families of the senders, including all of the most dreadful details of the treatment and suffering of possibly terminally sick people.

To include such news with a card wishing the recipient a happy holiday season seems bizarre and makes me uncomfortable. Please suggest to your readers that they send a card without the bad news or send the news in a separate letter. — Las Vegas

Dear Las Vegas: The "dreadful details" do not belong in a holiday card, or anywhere else except conversations with close family members. However, giving you a brief update of the personal news, good or bad, is a way for people to keep in touch, especially those who correspond only once a year. Try to be tolerant.

Annie's Snippet: One of the reasons goodwill is so appropriate at Christmas-time is because often that is when it is needed most.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com

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Nice 1 BR. furn. or unfurn. Good location. \$225/mo. Call weekends and after 6:00 p.m. 432-268-1888

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS  
Notice of Scheduled Entry into Fields, Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code Ann., Section 74.117 (Vernon Supp. 2003) Cotton producers in the Permian Basin, Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 1, 2004. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during late season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 800-687-1212. #4066 December 17 & 24, 2003

WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLN (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (30)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	New York	Premium
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	News Wheel-Fortune	Movie: Jesus, et Nino Dios	King of the Hill	News	Movie: IA	News	Sam Peak	News-Laher	Realm of the	(CC)	Story (CC)	Live	That's Raven	NFL Live	College Grid	Movie: Cats &	
7:30 PM	My Wife-Kids	My Wife-Kids	My Wife-Kids	Movie: Anastasia	Movie: Anastasia	60 Minutes II	Movie: It's a	Movie: It's a	Update/Israel	Cincinnati	Monster House	Movie: 48	Movie: A	Partners (CC)	Movie: Twas	Long Drive	Football	Movie: An	
8:30 PM	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	(CC)	King	48 Hours	Movie: El Siete	Movie: El Siete	Ripley's Be-	The Nutcracker	American	8:55 Movie:	Movie: A	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Championship	Bowl - New	Movie: Stealing	
9:30 PM	Funnies Home	Funnies Home	Funnies Home	Don Francisco	70s Show	Investigates	News	News	Men (CC)	Charlie Rose	Monster House	the Band II	Story (CC)	Nightly News	Kim Possible	Ojive	SportsCenter	Movie: Dear	
10:30 PM	Family First	News	News	Misa del Gallo	Becker (CC)	Service	Llamado Jesus	at St. Peter's	Ripley's Be-	Sign Off	Monster	10:50 Movie:	Movie: A	Midnight Love	Even Stevens	NFL Live	Rome Is	Movie: God	
11:30 PM	First Method	Extra (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel	Misa del Gallo	Spin City	Church	TBA	Basilica (CC)	Ripley's Be-	American	Garage	48 HRS.	Story (CC)	Comicview	Boy World	Drag Race	SportsCenter	Movie: Stealing	
12:30 AM	A Storybook	Live (CC)	Christmas	Blind Date	Blind Date	Street Smarts	Movie: Alla en	Fraser (CC)	Movie: Flash		Chopper	45 Movie:	Story (CC)	Comicview	Recess (CC)	NFL Live		Movie: Married	

DENNIS THE MENACE



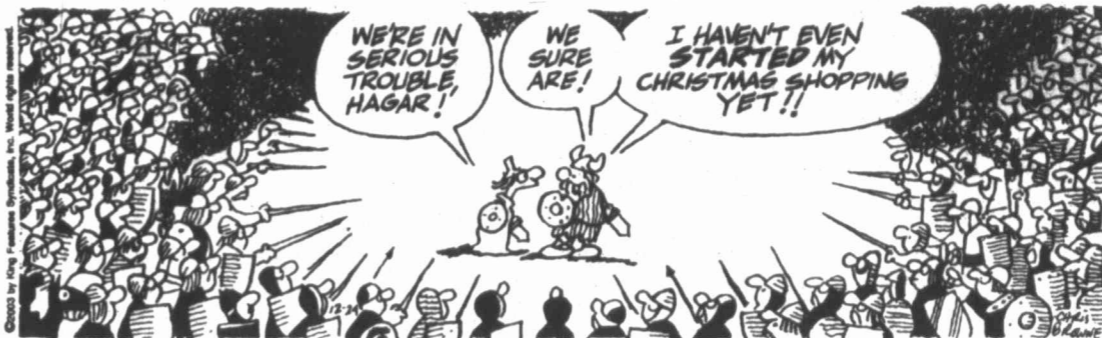
\*ONE MORE THING... DON'T FORGET TO BRING MR. WILSON SOME PEACE AN' QUIET."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'll get PJ ready for bed. Do we have any swaddling clothes?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



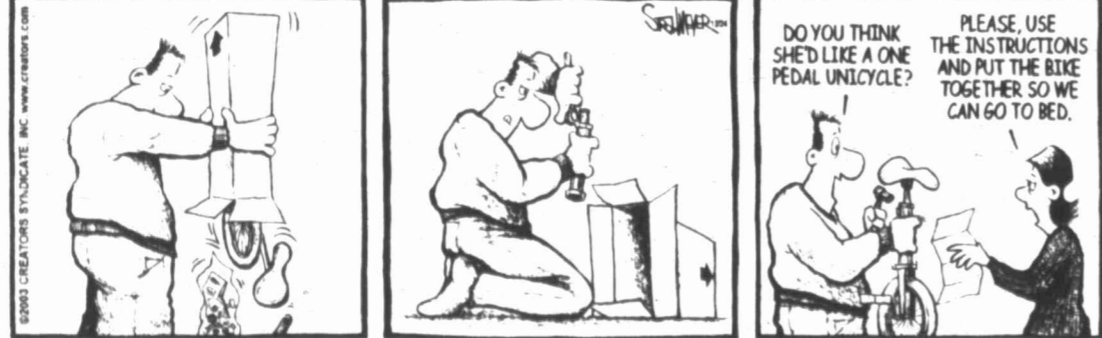
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2003. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo Eight astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama, who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India, died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1906, Canadian physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to broadcast a music program over radio, from Brant Rock, Mass.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically

for television, was first broadcast by NBC-TV.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 83. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 63. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 59. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 58. Actor Grand L. Bush is 48. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 48. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 47. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 46. Designer Kate Spade is 41. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 40. Actor Diedrich Bader ("The Drew Carey Show") is 37.

Answer to previous puzzle

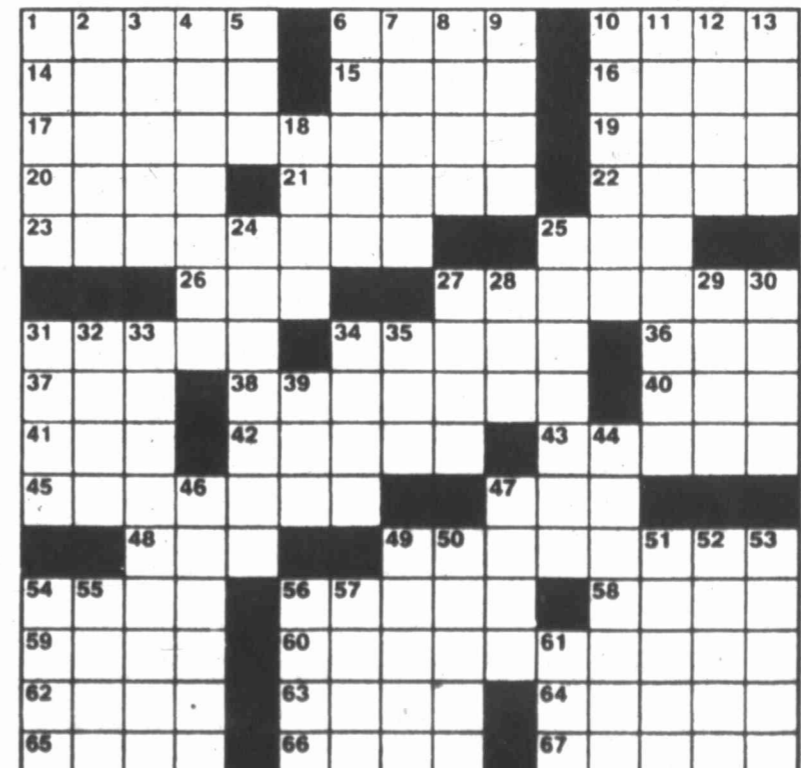
MATA	AMBLE	KENO
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ALOE	IF	IFI
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SOLE	BUTTER	MILK
IRAN	ESTES	EDIE
SALT	REAPS	NETS

Newsday Crossword

HUMORESQUE by Robert H. Wolfe  
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Carpenter's fastener
  - 6 MP's quarry
  - 10 Conscious minds
  - 14 Sports venue
  - 15 Actress Rowlands
  - 16 Smallville character
  - 17 M\*A\*S\*H episodes have one
  - 19 Big times
  - 20 Old gas name
  - 21 Actress Taylor
  - 22 "\_\_\_ the night before..."
  - 23 Sweet wines
  - 25 Poetic adverb
  - 26 Interruption
  - 27 Distributing, with "out"
  - 31 Thin biscuit
  - 34 Awkward ones
  - 36 AT&T part
  - 37 Coll. in Columbus
  - 38 Level of command
  - 40 Before, to Keats
  - 41 Finish first
  - 42 Like villain's eyes
  - 43 Carpenter's wear
  - 45 More like the beach
  - 47 Go wrong
  - 48 All the same
  - 49 Undid, as a law
  - 54 \_\_\_ Romeo
  - 56 Video-game name
  - 58 Beginner
  - 59 Path for Hope and Crosby

- DOWN
- 1 Business department
  - 2 1929 event
  - 3 Exploit again
  - 4 Overeat
  - 5 Infant's cry
  - 6 Be of one mind
  - 7 Makes the puppies independent
  - 8 Tale starter
  - 9 Canoeing spot
  - 10 Filled with joy
  - 11 Woody Allen, in the '50s
  - 12 Top classification
  - 13 Be disrespectful
  - 18 Journey
  - 24 Welsh \_\_\_ (cheese dish)
  - 25 Catch in a trap
  - 27 Divine
  - 28 Big fuss
  - 29 Roman emperor
  - 30 Secluded valley
  - 31 Bowls over
  - 32 Where Mongolia is
  - 33 Fred Astaire musical
  - 34 Burn a bit
  - 35 Showed the way
  - 39 About a 75 average
  - 44 Idle talk
  - 46 Make numb
  - 47 Ben-Hur, e.g.
  - 49 Stallone role
  - 50 Eastern Indians
  - 51 Song's words
  - 52 Soap role for Susan
  - 53 Nonspeaking dwarf
  - 54 Folk singer Guthrie
  - 55 Good soil
  - 56 Farmland unit
  - 57 Animated character, for short
  - 61 Feeling blue



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# HOWARD COUNTY BUYERS' GUIDE

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The City of Big Spring is taking applications for Heavy Equipment Operator/Landfill. For further information contact the Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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Now Hiring Day staff for Boys Home. Shift work.

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710 Scurry (432) 263-7331

**With Well Wishes**  
Sending lots of good health, happiness and cheer, now and throughout the coming year.

**Big Spring Pulmonary**  
• Dr. Anna Rosinaka, M.D. 264-1500  
• Dr. Cezary Kuprianowicz, M.D. 264-1300  
1605 W. 11TH

*Merry Christmas!*  
*From All Of Us!*

**Harris Lumber & Hardware**  
**Gaze Crystal Kitchen**  
1515 E. FM 700  
267-8206

*Just On The Nick Of Time!*

...Our very best wishes for a jolly holiday season to all our customers. We really appreciate your dropping in this year.

**Klassic Kleeners**  
2107 Gregg  
263-7004

*Merry & Bright*

We hope each day of the holiday season is filled with good times, love and laughter. Merry Christmas and many thanks for your business.

**All-District Screen Printing**  
Marcus, Theresa & Jim  
1005 E. 11th Place  
263-4647

**Rejoice!**

In the spirit of the season we offer you our sincere best wishes and deepest gratitude. Have a joyous Noel!

**Dr. R Marc Schwarz, M.D.**  
1608 W. FM 700  
Suite B  
267-3655

**MAIN ST.**

*Let the Spirit Move You!*

There's no place like home, especially at the holidays, and we're glad to be right here, serving good folks like you.

*Merry Christmas!*

**The Medicine Shoppe**  
1001 Gregg  
263-7316

**OUR RESIDENTS TELL US THEY LIKE:**

- Space and design of homes
- Location of apartment complex
- Rental Rates

**YOU WILL LIKE THEM, TOO!**

**Coronado Hills Apartments**  
801 W. Marcy • 267-6500  
www.coronadohillsapts.com

View These Apartment Homes On Our Website Or Call For A Mailed Brochure "Remember...you deserve the best!!!"

**WEST TEXAS DISCOUNT FLOORING**

M-F 9-5:30 SAT. 12-4	Pergo Snap <b>\$2.59</b> sf	Wilsonart <b>\$2.59</b> sf
<b>1712 GREGG</b>	<b>REMNANT SALE</b>	Plush Carpet <b>\$6.99</b> yd
<b>263-5500</b>	16x16 Tile <b>\$1.49</b> sf	Vinyl <b>\$7.49</b> yd

**Get Your Holiday Bonus**

**SELL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

By advertising your no-longer-used items in the classifieds, you'll have extra cash to do your own holiday shopping.

**Holiday Special**  
**10 Lines 7 Days**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**NOW ONLY \$30<sup>00</sup>**

PRIVATE PARTY ADS ONLY. NO REFUNDS  
OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/03

**The Big Spring Herald**  
710 Scurry • 263-7331

**Christmas Countdown Sale!**

Oak Pad Top Cedar Chest <b>\$299</b>	Tricycle Table <b>\$69</b>	Vanity Bench <b>\$59</b>	Recliners <b>\$399</b>
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**Mark Down On Sofas, Loveseats And Chairs Storewide**

Sofa Reg. \$999.00 <b>Sale \$849<sup>00</sup></b>	Sofa Reg. \$789.00 <b>Sale \$659<sup>00</sup></b>	Sofa Reg. \$789.00 <b>Sale \$659<sup>00</sup></b>
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**Elrod's**  
BIG SPRING'S OLDEST, LARGEST, FINEST FURNITURE STORE  
2309 SCURRY 267-8491

D E C 2 4 2 0 0 3

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

**1100 Ridgeroad** - Clean 2 bdrm, 1 bath. \$350/mo. \$250/dep. 1 yr lease. Ref. Req. No pets. 432-267-7721.

**1312 Park** 2 BR 1 bath. CH/A. \$350/mo. \$200/dep. Call 432-267-3375 or 270-8665

2 Bdrm apt., Coahoma, \$375/mo. & 3 Bdrm 2 bath house, Forsan, \$375/mo. 432-294-4903

2411 Morrison. 3BR, 2 bath. CH/A. Stove, refrigerator, washer & dryer, microwave. \$500/mo. \$250/dep. Call Tom, 978-869-6911

2BR, 1 bath 1102 Lancaster. No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

2, & 3 BDRM Houses for Rent. CH/A. No Pets. No HUD. 432-263-5818 or 213-0820

2 bdr, 1 bath, 1524 E. 17th CH/A, fenced backyard. \$350/mo. \$300/dep. Call 432-267-4090 or 213-3864

\$300/mo. for 2 Bdrms 1401 Virginia 1310 Donley 1303 Sycamore w/2 bath 1517 Kentucky Way w/1 bath

Deposit on all Moren @ 432-267-7380 Happy Holidays

1514 E. Hwy 350. Large building with 3 offices & lots of storage on fenced 4 acre lot. \$650/mo. plus dep. Westex Auto Parts. Inc. 432-263-5000.

**Barcelona Apartments**  
"Call For Move-In Specials"  
All Bills Paid  
531 Westover Rd. 263-1252

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD**  
•Swimming Pool  
•Private Patios  
•Carports  
•Appliances  
•Most Utilities Paid  
•Senior Citizens Discount  
•1, & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished  
**PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS**  
800 W. Marcy Drive  
263-5555 263-5000

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

**3BR, 1 bath. 1307 Colby.** No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

**\$50 MOVE-IN SPECIAL**  
One and Two Bedroom Apartment home available. Starting from \$335.00 per month

**\*FREE CABLE**  
\*On site Laundry Facilities  
\*Covered Picnic area with BBQ Grills  
\*Playground for the Kids  
\*Central Air & Heat

**SUNSET RIDGE APTS**  
2911 W. HWY 80  
432-263-2292

**805 W. 18th.** 3/1/1 Good Neighborhood. \$450/mo. \$400/dep. Call 432-264-0833 after 5:00.

Rent to own, first & last month rent down. 3 BR, 1 bath. Call 432-264-9522

**3709 Dixon.** Clean 3 bdr. 2 bath, CH/A, stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$475/mo. \$200/dep. Call 432-267-1543

3 Bdrm, 1 1/2 bath. 4207 Parkway. No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

**900 Scurry**  
3 Bdr, 1 bath, CHA, Washer/dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. 213-2681

Executive 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Great location. \$850/mo. Call 432-263-2382

**FOR RENT: 4109 DIXON** - 4 BR, 2 bath \$500/mo \$500/ deposit CH/A. References required 432-267-3074 or 979-324-2072.

**LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX**  
Swimming Pool  
Carports.  
Most Utilities Paid.  
Senior Citizen Discounts.  
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths Unfurnished  
**KENTWOOD APARTMENTS**  
1904 East 25th Street  
267-5444 263-5000

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

**1BR, 1 bath. 1102 Sycamore.** No pets. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**  
\$1,000 Total Move in Cost  
On each remaining 3 New homes on 1300 Block of Marijo. Reasonably good credit required. Down payment assistance and lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. No Payments till Feb. 2004. Call now 432-521-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

**2908 Cherokee.** 2 Bedroom, garage, fenced yard \$12,000. No Owner Finance. 432-267-6667

700 N. Tubb Rd. Coahoma School Dist. New MFG Home 2, 128 sq ft. 4 Bdrm 2 bath, all appliances, 2 acres, land /trees, water well and etc. Call 432-267-1717 or 432-661-5552

**705 S. Lancaster** Cheaper than a storage building! Cash Prize \$4,900. or \$500 down, \$94/mo. for 84 mos. Call 512-826-2553.

Clean 1 br furnished upstairs apartment \$240. Water paid \$100. dep 432-267-1333, 466-1561

For Lease or Sale. 4 bdrm 1 bath. Nicely decorated and fenced. Call 830-385-1826

Lake Thomas House For Sale. 2 Story w/balcony 2 bdrm 1 1/2 bath. Call 325-207-3372

**"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"**

**ATTENTION THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS**

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is advertently not printed your advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount actually received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

**New Construction Open House.** Sat. Sun. 1-6 pm. or any time by appt. 1308 Marijo. Call 432-520-9848.

Tracks of land for sale. 5 miles South of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles West of Coahoma. Owner will Finance or Texas Veterans. Call 432-263-8785.

**For Sale By Owner Owner Financing Provided.**  
Low down payment, low monthly. 3 Bdrm, 1 bath Updated Kitchen & bath. 1103 Sycamore Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

For Sale: 2 Bdrm 1 bath, well insulated, new roof/water heater. Call for appointment 432-267-3564

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft., downtown office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. Call 432-267-3126

For Sale: 2 Bdrm 1 bath, well insulated, new roof/water heater. Call for appointment 432-267-3564

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft., downtown office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. Call 432-267-3126

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**CKC Chihuahua puppy.** Refrigerator, dryer, Magic Chef electric stove & 35 ft. Mobile home. 432-263-1701

Pecans for Sale, in the hull \$1.50 lb.; shelled \$5.00 lb. Call 432-263-8785

Rodgers Drum set \$300. Call after 5:00 p.m. 432-267-2941 or daytime 432-213-1363

**TOO LATES**

2003 Yamaha YZ 125. Rode 3 times. Make offer. 425-7236

This Newspaper is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

**TOO LATES**

2003 Yamaha YZ 125. Rode 3 times. Make offer. 425-7236

Found Male Chihuahua in the area of 2nd & Benton. Call 432-263-4502 to identify.

1 Bdrm Duplex, 106 16th. Refrigerated air, stove & refrigerator furnished. \$225/mo \$100/dep. Call 432-268-8353

Owner Finance Low Down Payment No Credit Check 3/1, 107 Miller B, Coahoma 2/1, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring 4/1, 3215 Auburn, Big Spring 4/2, 1500 11th Place, Big Spring Call Pam (432)631-5468 (432)570-8178

Lost Horse (TS Bran on her hip) in the area of Silver Hills addition. Please Call 432-264-6711 or 816-9685

**REMEMBER! Find It In Big Spring First!**

**A SEASON OF GIVING**  
We hope each day of the holiday season is filled with good times, love and laughter. Merry Christmas and many thanks for your business.

**Spring City Auction**  
2611 W. Hwy. 80 • Scott Emerson TX 15051 • 263-1831

**Gold Rush Discount Tobacco**  
800 E. 3rd St. 268-8846

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

To all our valued patrons, we wish a very merry holiday season and we thank you for making every day special for us this year.

**AJ PIRKLE JR AGENCY**  
505 Scurry 267-5053

**CATCH THE SPIRIT**  
Merry Christmas From The Staff At Carriage Inn  
Retirement Living At Its Finest  
April Martinez  
501 W. 17th Community Director 267-1353

**the Miracle of Christmas**

May all your hopes and prayers be fulfilled during this holy time of year. Our thoughts and fond wishes are with you. Thanks for your generous support.

**Dr. Jose Chavez, M.D. & Staff - Pediatrics -**  
Malone Hogan Clinic  
1501 W. 11th Pl. - Suite 205  
(432) 714-4700

Let The Holiday Spirit Ring!  
Merry Christmas!

**Cornell Corrections**  
1701 Apron Dr.

**To All Our Best Friends At The Holidays**  
You bring out the best in us. Thanks!

**SOUTHWESTERN**  
Southwestern A-1 Pest Control, Inc.  
Since 1954  
2008 Birdwell 263-6514

*With Best Wishes*

We're thinking of you this holiday season and we thank you most sincerely for your generous support.

**Bob Brock Ford**  
Lincoln • Mercury • Nissan  
500 W. 4th  
267-7424

**Huletide Greetings**

May faith be your guide during this holiest of seasons.  
We thank you kindly for the gift of your friendship.

**Jiffy Car Wash**  
807 W. 4th  
263-4545

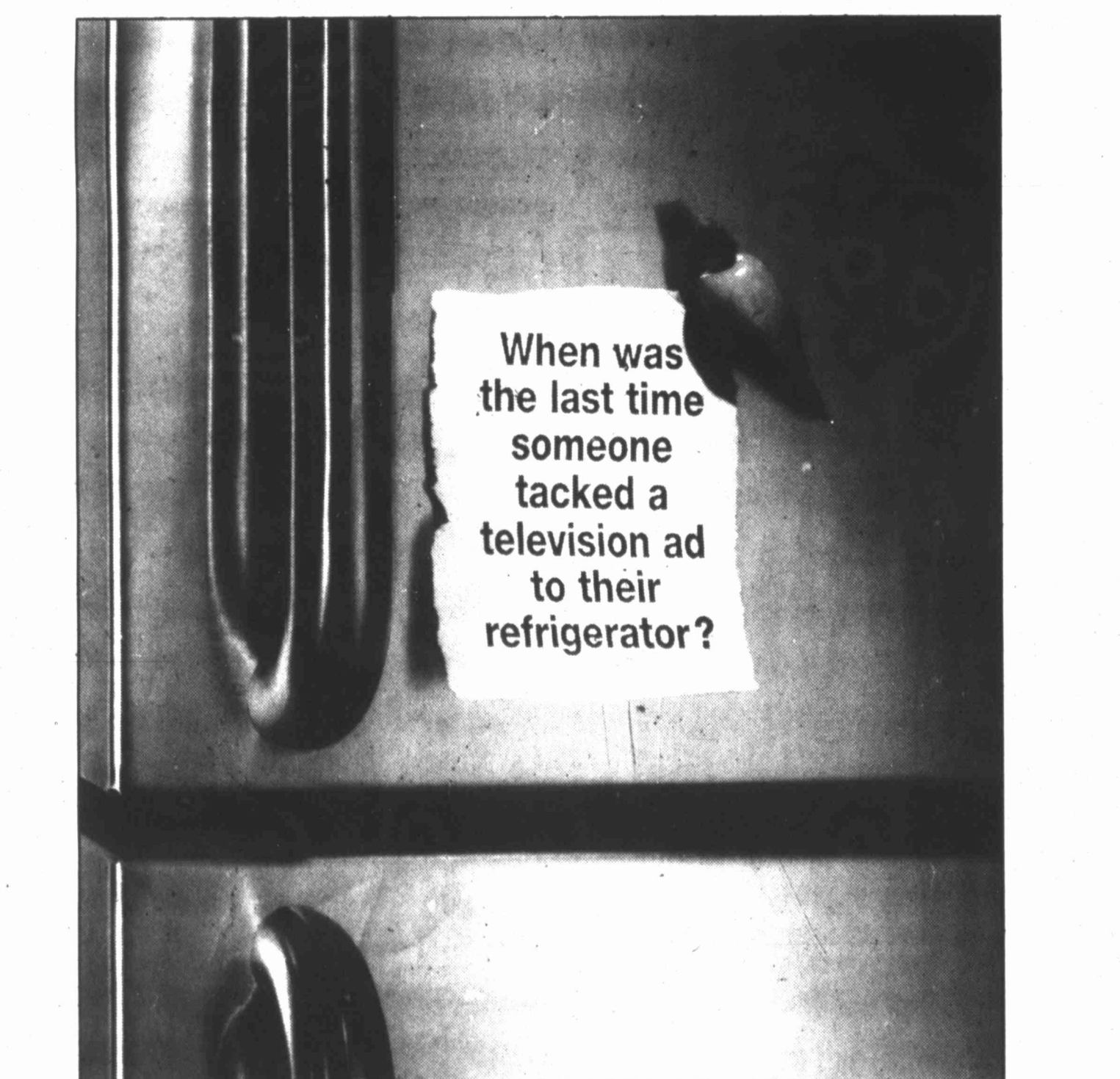
**Gillihan Paint & Body**  
821 W. 4th  
264-5628

*Season's Greetings*

Wishing you a festive season filled with good friends, good times, and good tidings. We're grateful for the good will you've shown us this past year.

**Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union**  
1110 Benton Member NCUA 263-8393

**GARAGE SALES**  
Hidden treasures? Junk? Recycle your unwanted items! Call 263-7331 today. A friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!



Words on paper. They will always be the most powerful tools human beings use to communicate. They place no limits on how much we can say, and the furthest reaches of the imagination are the only limits on what we can show. They have the power to make complex ideas simple, and simple ideas powerful. We do more than read them, we hold them. And, from the advertising we see in publications to the letters we receive in the mail, the things we hold in our hands have the quickest routes to our hearts.

**Say It In Print.**